

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

May 12, 2011

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Referral of Matters Arising from the
Preliminary Inquiry of Senator John Ensign

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The Committee conducted a preliminary inquiry into allegations that former Senator John Ensign violated federal law and Senate rules, and engaged in improper conduct that reflects on the Senate. In the course of its inquiry, the Committee discovered information giving it reason to believe that Senator Ensign and others violated laws that fall within the Department of Justice's jurisdiction.

Under Supplementary Procedural Rule 7(a), the Committee "shall" report to the proper authorities whenever it has reason to believe that a violation of law may have occurred.

Accordingly, the Committee refers the enclosed summary and evidentiary materials showing that Senator Ensign and others:

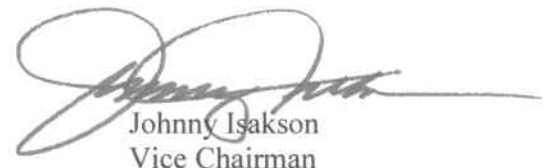
- aided and abetted violations of the one-year post-employment contact restriction,
- conspired to violate that restriction,
- made false statements to the Federal Election Commission,
- violated campaign finance laws, and
- obstructed the Committee's preliminary inquiry.

Please advise the Committee if we may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairman



Johnny Isakson
Vice Chairman

cc: The Honorable Ron Weich
Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice