

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

Christopher Hughey
Federal Election Commission
Acting General Counsel
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

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

Dear Mr. Hughey:

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, including those that fall within the Federal Election Commission'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 violated campaign finance laws and made possible false statements to the Commission.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairman



Johnny Isakson
Vice Chairman

cc: J. Duane Pugh
Director of Congressional, Legislative and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Election Commission

Enclosure