Lanny J. Davis
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May 14, 2007

Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear President Bush,

I am writing you to inform you that I am resigning from the Privacy and Civil Liberties Board effective immediately.

I wish to thank you for the honor you gave me to serve on this important body. I worked hard and I hope you and others in the administration believe that I made a contribution to justify the faith you placed in me.

Going forward, Mr. President, I would constructively suggest that you do your utmost, including by issuing a directive to relevant executive branch agencies, to guarantee full and early access of the Board to anti-terrorist programs, current and evolving, that might affect civil liberties and privacy rights. All Americans should agree that there can be an appropriate balance between doing what is necessary to win the war against terrorism and also preserving the values of privacy rights and civil liberties that have made America the great country that it is.

I also believe that it is important for the White House staff and others in the administration to understand that you insist on the Board's complete independence – not subject to White House or administration supervision or control. Only with such independence can the Board provide you and future presidents with the important function of effective oversight to ensure that this appropriate balance is maintained in the challenging years ahead.

Thank you again for asking me to serve.

My sincere best wishes to you and your family,

Lanny

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