

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

July 7, 2003

BY FAX AND FIRST-CLASS MAIL

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:


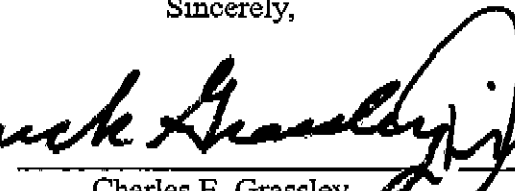
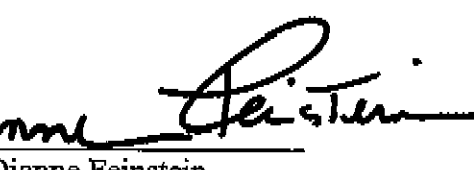
We write to request your assistance in making available to the Senate Judiciary Committee a recently completed report by the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) on the FBI's handling of the Wen Ho Lee espionage case. Your staff has said that we cannot review the report.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has exercised close oversight over the Wen Ho Lee case, including holding three hearings while you were still a member of the committee. Members of the committee would like to continue our oversight role over the Wen Ho Lee case by examining the OPR report.

When OPR began investigating the Wen Ho Lee case in 2000, the intent was clearly to make its report available to the Congress and the American people. For example, Presidential Press Secretary Joe Lockhart stated on September 22, 2000, with regard to the OPR report, that the President, Congress, and the American public "should look forward to an accounting there and I think that will be done." However, there can be no such accounting unless the report—at a minimum—is provided to members of relevant congressional oversight committees. We would also note that the Department of Justice has made OPR reports available to the Judiciary Committee in other instances, including oversight hearings involving alleged misconduct at Ruby Ridge.

We greatly appreciate your assistance with this matter, and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

		
Patrick J. Leahy United States Senator	Charles E. Grassley United States Senator	Dianne Feinstein United States Senator