

THE HILL

Capitol Hill Publishing Corp.

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Zoe Lofgren, MD
D.C. Office

Hon. Zoe Lofgren
House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Lofgren

Thank you for your June 24, 2010 letter, inquiring about advertising fees paid by the Government of Vietnam to The Hill in connection with advertisements placed by that Government.

The Hill acknowledges the concerns you have regarding those advertisements. As we understand it, those concerns were expressed in the op-ed letter you sent to The Hill, which it published in full on May 26, 2010. We always welcome letters from you or any other Member on any topic.

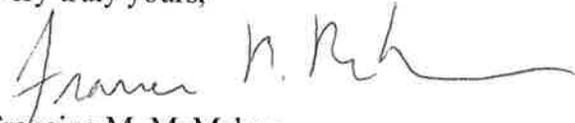
As you know, it is quite common for foreign governments to place advertisements in the U.S. press in order to communicate their point of view directly to the American public and to Members of Congress. That time-honored tradition is protected by the First Amendment, which protects both the speaker and the right of Americans to hear divergent views.

As we are certain you can appreciate, requests from government officials for financial information about advertisers could, under certain circumstances, be seen as having a chilling effect. Although we are certain that was not your intent, we asked

Jeffrey Cunard, our counsel at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, to follow up with Ms. Melody Reis, as indicated in your letter. Ms. Reis, however, did not know the reasons underlying your request.

Accordingly, for First Amendment reasons and because such financial information is proprietary, confidential and business sensitive, The Hill prefers, with all respect, not to share these details. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact us directly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francine M. McMahon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Francine M. McMahon
Publisher