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AGING & YOUTH
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES &
ENERGY
PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE

Senate of Pennsylvania

November 30, 2010

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Office of Attorney General
Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear General Corbett:

This is an official request for the Office of Attorney General to review all documents and related information concerning State Purchase Order #4300193303 and the subsequent actions of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security (PA-OHS) and the Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) related to this contract and the services provided to the Commonwealth.

Substantial public concerns have been registered since it was reported that ITRR received a no-bid contract of approximately \$103,000 from PA-OHS. This contract resulted in the monitoring of legal activities of public advocacy groups and private citizens, as well as statewide dissemination of this information to law enforcement, governing bodies, private businesses and other parties via PA-OHS Intelligence Bulletins. Many peaceful, law-abiding organizations and citizens were unnecessarily listed in the bulletins, and in some instances, investigated by local law enforcement and other authorities.

The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee is charged with providing legislative oversight of emergency management and homeland security functions in the Commonwealth. Two public hearings were held – one on September 27, 2010 and one on October 13, 2010 – to hear sworn testimony from witnesses. The committee has reviewed all documents provided and listened to concerns expressed by citizens, agency officials, and other interested parties.

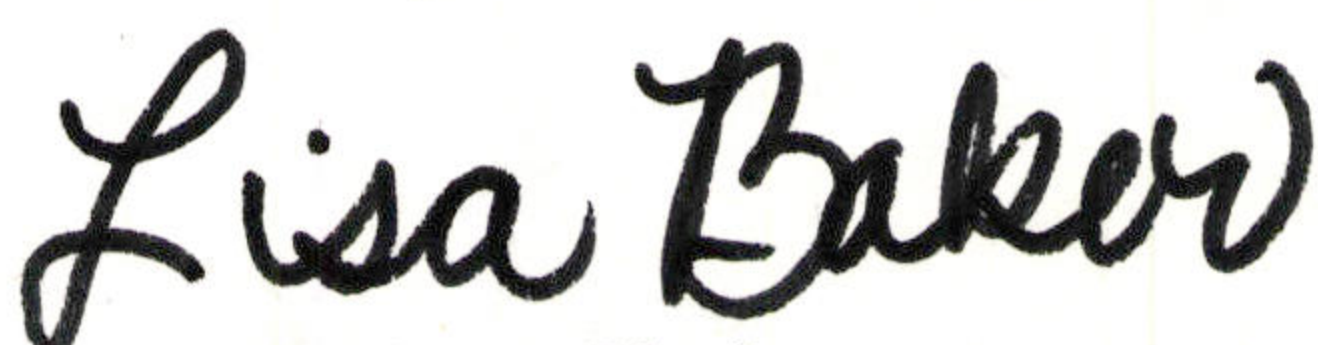
Several significant events have occurred as review by the legislative and executive branches proceeds:

- The ITRR contract was not renewed.
- The Director of PA Homeland Security resigned.
- The intelligence functions previously being performed by PA-OHS and the contractor were transferred to the existing Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Intelligence Center (PA-CIC), which has state and federal analysts trained to properly collect and disseminate criminal intelligence information with the highest regard for civil rights and privacies.
- The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee has been preparing comprehensive legislation for amendments next legislative session to Title 35, which governs many of the duties of PEMA and PA-OHS.

Although many questions have been answered, several more remain. There are now allegations that have surfaced speculating on various legal violations. Investigating such serious charges is beyond the scope of a legislative committee. So I respectfully request the Office of Attorney General review the record to determine if further action is warranted. The Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee will be transmitting copies of our files to your office.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (717) 787-7428.

Sincerely,



Lisa Baker, Chair
Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

pc: All Committee Members
pc: Steve Crawford, Chief of Staff – Office of the Governor
pc: General Robert French, PEMA Director
pc: Colonel Frank Pawlowski, State Police Commissioner