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Congress of the United States
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March 30, 2011

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Chaffetz,

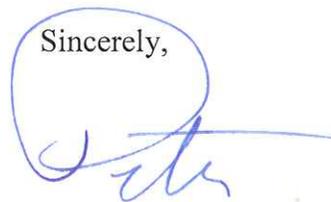
Earlier this week the New York Times reported in the attached article that the Kabul Bank made over \$45 million in no interest loans to Afghan political elite. As previously reported by the New Yorker, Afghan officials have used their largest financial institution as a private slush fund, effectively rendering it insolvent.

These latest reports add to a troubling pattern of events that reflect a pervasive corruption among Afghan government officials. For example, more than \$3 billion in cash was openly flown out of Kabul International Airport by top Afghan officials and former Vice President Ahmad Zia Massoud's attempted to leave the country with \$52 million in cash.

As Congress attempts to get America's fiscal house in order, we should be questioning every U.S. dollar spent in support of this corrupt government. I write to urge you to open an investigation into these recent reports and conduct a series of hearings to put a spotlight on the waste and misuse of funds provided by American taxpayers in support of a hopelessly corrupt Afghan government.

I look forward to working with you and Ranking Member Tierney on this issue.

Sincerely,



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable John Tierney

Attachment (1)