

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary

Washington, DC 20515-6216
One Hundred Tenth Congress

March 26, 2007

The Honorable William J. Clinton
55 West 125th Street
New York, NY 10027

Dear President Clinton:

The House Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security will hold a hearing on Thursday, March 29, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in room 2141 of the Rayburn House Office Building on the appropriate use of the presidential pardon authority. I would like to inquire as to your availability to testify at this hearing.

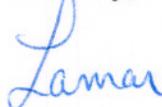
As you know, Article II, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution gives the President the authority to grant clemency, commutation, or remission of fines for offenses against the United States. The Framers chose to vest unfettered clemency power in the President, rejecting attempts to share this authority with Congress.

Despite this plenary authority, presidents are not immune from criticism, congressional oversight, and even attempts to restrict the pardon authority for what may be seen as controversial grants of clemency or commutation. In recent years, various presidential pardons have fallen under harsh criticism.

You are no stranger to controversial pardons, most notably the pardon of Marc Rich on your last day in office. I can think of no better person than you to speak on this issue. I believe your experience with exercising the pardon authority and defending it from intrusion by Congress would be invaluable to Members of the Subcommittee and I hope you are available to join us for this important hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michael Volkov or Caroline Lynch at (202) 225-6906. I look forward to your participation in the hearing.

Sincerely,



Lamar Smith
Ranking Member

cc: Chairman John Conyers