

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2010

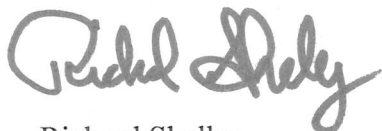
The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

This letter is in response to the Department's May 11, 2010 letter regarding a proposed reorganization within the Civil Rights Division (CRT). The primary purposes of the reorganization are to realign and update several managerial and reporting relationships; correct position and office titles to reflect the current managerial and organizational structure; and establish a Policy and Strategy Section to address legal and policy issues that do not fit within any other section's responsibilities.

We do not approve of the proposed reorganization. Both the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) and the Commission on Civil Rights are conducting reviews to determine whether the leadership of this Division or the Department improperly interfered to dismiss some of the charges in the case, *U.S. v. New Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, et al.* Furthermore, at a recent Commission hearing, there was testimony that an improper double standard is applied by the leadership of the Division in bringing voting rights cases. We think it is important to defer consideration of this reorganization until the ongoing investigations provide more information about the actions and decisions of the Division's leadership. In light of this, we cannot support approval of the proposed reorganization.

Sincerely,



Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies



Frank R. Wolf
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies