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Subject:

1. Tom Samoluk and I met yesterday with the staff of the Treasury Postal Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. The Staff Director, Michelle Mrdeza, as well as staffers from the offices of Members Istook, Hoyer, and Price were present. We were pleasantly surprised. In the hour-long meeting, we fielded a series of probing questions, but were able to communicate the seriousness of our purpose and the understandable grounds for our recommendation that the Board's life be extended. The staff director stated that she thought we ought to be funded and that she had some ideas where the money could come from. Istook's staffer (who is very smart) seemed engaged by the Board's work and voiced the concern that Congressman Istook has about temporary boards and commissions in general. He requested a letter from the Board that would contain the assurance that this would be the only request for an extension and that it was not the first move in a campaign of self-perpetuation. Mrdeza indicated that there was no need for a hearing. I had a call from Joyce Larkin, of Congressman Stoke's office, this morning, and she indicated that had gotten a call from Hoyer's staff person, who thought the meeting yesterday went extremely well. 2. In addition, we met with Kevin Mathis of Senator Specter's office. He was likewise positive and believed that the Senator would support us. He said he would try to speak with him today. 3. I am hopeful that we will be included in an amended budget request from the White House. We should know soon.

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