

[DRAFT]

June 5, 1998

The Honorable Frank W. Hunger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Hunger:

As Chairman of the Assassination Records Review Board's oversight committee, I am keenly interested in the Board's completing its task of creating the best possible public record of the assassination of President Kennedy.

On June 5, I met with Board members and their Executive Director for the purpose of discussing the importance that they attach to securing for the American people the original Zapruder film. We discussed the advantages and disadvantages of copies of the film and the role that the original plays as the "benchmark" for all evidence related to the assassination. They also described their concerns about the potential cost of the film and your prudent efforts to keep the price as low as possible for the taxpayers. They spoke favorably of your candid discussions with them and they very much appreciate the difficult situation that you and the Justice Department face.

I am writing to you to let you know that my Committee and I fully share the Board's commitment to ensuring that the original film remains in the custody of the American people as the most important "assassination record." I also very much appreciate your efforts to hold down the cost to the taxpayers. I can assure you that my Committee will not attempt to second-guess your sound judgment in seeking either a negotiated settlement of the cost or in litigating the case before the appropriate court. We need the

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original film to remain in the National Archives -- and I want you to know that I support your efforts to accomplish this important task in the best manner possible.

Sincerely,

Dan Burton
Chairman