

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 20, 2005

Honorable Alberto Gonzales  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Gonzales:

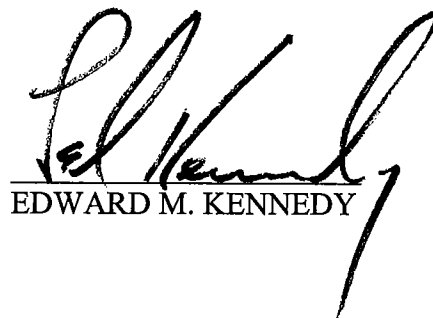
In light of the controversy surrounding the government's handling of *United States of America vs. Philip Morris USA Inc. et al.*, currently before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, we ask that you immediately issue a memorandum to all Department of Justice employees detailing their whistleblower protection rights under 5 U.S.C. § 2302. We also request that you make clear to Department of Justice employees that there will be no retaliation by managers against an employee who comes forward with information.

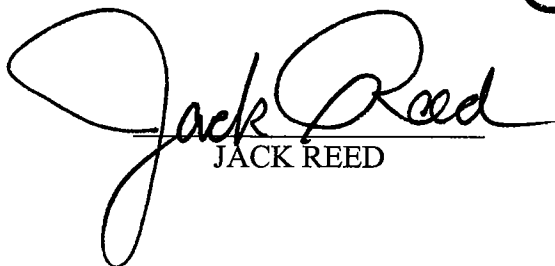
A June 19<sup>th</sup> *New York Times* article references a memo from two career attorneys on the trial team raising questions about political interference in the case and remedy changes that are not based on evidence. Anonymous officials suggested that some members of the trial team threatened to quit over concerns about the sudden reductions, and still another DOJ employee requested anonymity specifically out of fear of retaliation.

As you know, the DOJ Office of Professional Responsibility is investigating possible political interference in the last-minute decision to reduce the government's demand from \$130 billion to \$10 billion. In order to instill public confidence in our judicial system and in our Federal government, we hope that you will encourage DOJ employees with valuable information about this case to come forward. Protections for federal employees who report violations of laws, rules and regulations, abuses of authority, and dangers to public health or safety are essential for a transparent and trusted Federal government.

Sincerely,

  
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

  
EDWARD M. KENNEDY

  
JACK REED