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One Hundred Fourteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
[www.foreignaffairs.house.gov](http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov)

June 3, 2016

The Honorable Steve A. Linick  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of State

Dear Inspector General Linick:

Given your office's mission to investigate mismanagement in the programs and operations of the State Department, I write to request that you conduct an investigation into the deliberate omission of portions of the Department's "Daily Press Briefing" on December 2, 2013 from the publicly available video record.

As you know, the Department's spokesperson has determined that this omission was made in a "deliberate step" ordered by an official in the Bureau of Public Affairs. The missing excerpt – which has since resurfaced – contained a tacit admission by then-spokesperson Jennifer Psaki that the Department concealed information from the public about the commencement of negotiations with Iran over its nuclear program.

While the Department has clarified that what was initially described as a technical "glitch" was no such thing, the explanation provided by the spokesperson at a press briefing this week raises disturbing questions. For instance, it remains unclear why the exchange between Ms. Psaki and reporters was stricken from the video recording. How is it not possible to determine who in the Administration ordered that the video be altered, as the current spokesman has asserted? Will there be no accountability? Have there been other instances where the State Department has altered the public record?

In tampering with this video, the Bureau of Public Affairs has undermined its mission to "communicate timely and accurate information with the goal of furthering U.S. foreign policy." This is all the more troubling given that the video in question dealt with hugely consequential nuclear negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable John F. Kerry, the Secretary of State