



TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL | USA

February 27, 2012

Sent electronically
The Honorable Harry Reid
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Reid:

Public officials who misuse their official positions for private benefit violate the public trust and erode the fundamental principles of representative government.

As set forth in Transparency International –USA’s attached Statement in Support of New Federal Legislation Proscribing Public-Sector Undisclosed Self-Dealing, federal criminal law likely would not reach undisclosed self-dealing in the public sector, absent a bribe, kickback or some other money or property harm.

Transparency International –USA urges Congress to pass the Leahy/Cornyn amendment to the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (S.2038) to criminalize undisclosed self-dealing by federal, state and local officials, thereby preserving and protecting a fundamental interest of all citizens – ensuring that public officials avoid the sort of hidden dealings that threaten the integrity of representative government. Please do not hesitate to contact me (cdumas@transparency-usa.org; 202-589-1616) if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Claudia J. Dumas
President and CEO
Transparency International - USA