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U.S. House of Representatives  
 Committee on Commerce  
 Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building  
 Washington, DC 20515-6115

November 1, 1995

JAMES E. BOGGS, CHIEF OF STAFF

The Honorable Peter Deutsch  
 204 Cannon House Office Building  
 U.S. House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Peter:

I understand that last week you signed and circulated on the floor a "Dear Democratic Colleague" letter in support of a so-called "bipartisan compromise agreement on securities litigation reform." I am troubled that you would take the lead on a letter of this nature without at least first giving me the courtesy of a heads-up. Wholly apart from any Democratic Member's position on the merits of this bill, every Democrat should be offended by the process by which the bill has been handled.

Democratic Members and staff were completely excluded from the discussions leading to this purported "draft conference report." There has been no conference -- in fact, the Senate hasn't even appointed conferees yet. We learned about this "agreement" not from the Republicans but from the newspapers. And press reports suggest the Republicans are still arguing among themselves how far they can go in misleading investors.

Your circulation of the October 27th letter is troubling because, knowingly or not, you in effect gave the Republicans cover for their disgraceful process. They have now had their complete disregard for the Minority's rights blessed by 20 Democrats, eight of whom are on the Commerce Committee and two of whom are in the leadership. I hope that in the future you would give me the opportunity to discuss matters like these with you before you sign such letters.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL  
 RANKING MEMBER