Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary Rice,

In 2003, bounty hunter Duane "Dog" Chapman received a tip regarding the whereabouts of Andrew Luster, the Max Factor heir who disappeared during his trial for rape. Chapman went to Mexico to act on this tip, and was accompanied by a local Mexican police officer – who he agreed to pay. He was also in communication with U.S. officials, who were aware of his activities.

Chapman successfully located Luster and apprehended him. When he arrived at the jail to book Luster, however, Chapman's police escort was nowhere to be found. As a result, Chapman was detained for several days on a "deprivation of freedom charge" – a minor offense – and a "conspiracy" charge, which was originally dismissed by Judge Pineda (this latter charge is the crux of the extradition order because it is the only offense that Chapman has been charged with that allows him to be extradited under the treaty with Mexico - which requires the charge to carry with it at least a one-year sentence). Chapman then returned to the U.S. after posting bail.

Thanks to Mr. Chapman, Luster is now serving a 124-year sentence. And as of last month the whole situation seemed to have worked out for the best. But now, just days before the Mexican statue of limitations on prosecuting Chapman were set to expire, it seems the State Department is proceeding with efforts to extradite Mr. Chapman back to Mexico to face criminal prosecution for apprehending Mr. Luster.

Why would the State Department move forward with this extradition request when the only extraditable charge initially entertained by the Mexican authorities was dismissed? Why is the Department pursuing this case when Mr. Chapman was in communications and cooperating with U.S. and Mexican authorities before and throughout the entire period he was pursuing Mr. Luster? Finally – and perhaps most importantly – why is Mr. Chapman being "rewarded" for everything he has done for both the U.S. and Mexico by bringing Mr. Luster in with the prospect of serving jail time in Mexico? It makes no sense. It seems that Mexican authorities are pressing this case only because they are so stung by the embarrassment of failing where Mr. Chapman succeeded.

We hope you will deny this extradition request.

Thank you in advance for your assistance, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Tom Tancredo

Tom Tancredo, M.C.

John Boy

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