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From: Arthur A. Fletcher, Consultant
Research Assessment Management, Inc.
8484 Georgia Ave.
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To: Juanita Millender-McDonald, Congress Women
419 CGOB
Washington, DC.

Re: The meeting we had in congressman Clay's office regarding a Benchmark Study Contract, that I am involved in, that is being funded by the USPS' Office of the Inspector General.

Dear Congresswomen McDonald:

As stated above my good friend Congressman Clay arranged for the two of us to meet again in his office. I use the term "again" because the first time we met we were in State Senator Diane Watson's Office, in the State Capital in Sacramento California. I was there because she invited me there to help her defeat a resolution that was aimed at killing California's state mandated Affirmative Action Contractual Requirements.

Since you were unable to attend the group session that I spoke to on the matter, I gave you a one on one seminar type presentation. To be precise, I explained the critical elements of the **legally binding intent of Affirmative Action, as I initiated it in 1969. At the time I initiated that hotly debated, court challenged policy, I was serving as a Presidential appointee in the U.S. Department of Labor.**

You will recall that the senate resolution died in committee. But we lost the battle when the opposition had Proposition 209 placed on the ballot the next year.

The thing that stands out in my mind about our first meeting is this: You were as interested, concerned and attentive then as you were when I explained the Benchmark Study project that I am now involved in for USPS' Office of the Inspector General.

At our recent meeting, I informed you that at least three of the firms that the project's research staff might want to interview about their respective Diversity Procurement Programs are based in California. The firms in question are Edison Electric, Pacific Gas & Electric and the Bank of America. The latter are alleged to engage in "best practices" with respect to contracting with women and minority business owners doing business in that state.

After identifying the latter, I concluded the following: Specifically that the project's research investigators might need your assistance in arranging a interview, with the executives that managed the procurement programs for those firms.

You indicated that you would not only be willing to help arrange such interviews, but that you are willing to seek assistance form the Congressional Women's Caucus and the Hispanic Congressional Caucus, if that would be helpful.

You should know that I am highly enthusiastic about this particular diversity benchmark study project.. Why? Because the USPS', Office of the Inspector General, has launched a **ground braking initiative** where federal government contracting and women and minority business opportunities are concerned.

By that last statement I mean this: The companies that are included each year in Fortune Magazine's Top 100 firms for minorities and women to work for and its Top 50 firms that are the best for the latter to contract with are each equal opportunity, pioneer, trailblazers. Therefore, I have a sneaking suspicion that things will never be the same, once the postal service's procurement programs begin to mirror the best that exist in the private sector.

Knowing how busy you are and how limited your time is, I will not seek your assistance with something I can do on my own. However, once it is clear, in my mind, as to the specific request I want to make of you, I'll contact your office immediately. In the meantime if there is something I can do to improve, expand and or enhance your relations with the folks back home, please feel free to call on me.

Thanks again for meeting with me with respect to the project in question.

Respectfully,

Arthur A. Fletcher