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## Congress of the United States

May 6, 2008

Chair  
Select Intelligence Oversight Panel  
Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Education  
and Labor

Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence

Committee on Natural Resources

Co-Chair  
Children's Environmental Health Caucus  
Congressional Research and  
Development Caucus

Mr. William M [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. M [REDACTED]:

Thank you for contacting me about the size of the House of Representatives. I appreciate hearing from you, and I apologize for the delay in my reply.

As your voice in the U.S. House of Representatives, I always strive to represent my constituents' concerns and interests, and provide personal service to them. I truly value your input and suggestions on the issues before the House. In a representative government such as ours, it is essential that I know what you are thinking in order to do my job.

As you wrote in your letter, the size of the House of Representatives was fixed by legislative statute at 435 in 1911. At the time of the 1910 Census, the population of the United States was just over 92 million. The population now stands at over 304 million, meaning that each representative has a constituency just under 700,000. Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL) has introduced legislation in four successive Congresses prior to the current one to establish a commission to analyze the size and methods for electing members of the House of Representatives. I have consistently supported efforts to make our government more accountable to its citizens, and should a similar bill be introduced in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you again about this and other issues.

Sincerely,

RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress

*Although I would be willing to approve a larger House of Representatives if the case can be persuasive, it is not at all apparent to me that it would result in better representation for you. Thanks for the copy of your letter to Rep. Wexler*

**Representative Holt's note is as follows:**

*Although I would be willing to approve a larger House of Representatives if the case can be persuasive, it is not at all apparent to me that it would result in better representation for you. Thanks for the copy of your letter to Rep. Wexler*