



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

January 28, 2010

Animal and  
Plant Health  
Inspection  
Service

Legislative and  
Public Affairs

Freedom of  
Information

(b)(6)

4700 River Road  
Unit 50  
Riverdale, MD  
20737-1232

Dear (b)(6)

This is in response to your November 30, 2009, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for copies of correspondence between four former members of Congress or their staff and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Specifically, Charlie Bass Member from 1995 -2007), Mike Fitzpatrick (Member from 2005 – 2007), Steve Chabot (Member from 1995 - 2009), and Steve Pearce (Member from 2003 - 2009). Your request was received in this Office on December 1, 2009, and assigned case number FOIA 10-117. We apologize for the delay of this response.

Agency employees conducted a thorough search of their files and enclosed are 18 pages of records that respond to this request. However, certain information is withheld pursuant to FOIA Exemption 3, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3). This exemption provides for nondisclosure of information that is statutorily prohibited from disclosure. In this case, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 1997 (41 U.S.C. § 235b(m)).

Additionally, information is withheld pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). This exemption protects information from disclosure the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

There were no records located for Charlie Bass or Mike Fitzpatrick. For your information, this type of record is only maintained for three years in accordance with Agency records retention guidelines.

You may appeal our denial of this information and/or our no additional records response. If you choose to appeal, your appeal must be in writing and must be received within 45 days of the date of this letter to:

Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Ag Box 3401  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3401



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Please refer to FOIA 10-117 in your appeal letter and add the words "FOIA Appeal" to the front of the envelope. To assist the Administrator in reviewing your appeal, provide specific reasons why you believe modification of the determination is warranted.

Because the cost to process your request is less than \$25.00, the fee has been waived. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Deborah L. Leilich of my staff at (301) 734-3623.

Sincerely,



*for* Celeste Camp  
Acting Director  
Freedom of Information & Privacy Act Staff  
Legislative and Public Affairs

Enclosure