

Michael Wereschagin
503 Martindale St., Third Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-320-7900

February 25, 2011

Jacqueline B. Caldwell
FOIA Officer
Second Floor
1724 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

FOIA REQUEST

Fee benefit requested

Fee waiver requested

Expedited processing requested

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request access to and copies of an accounting of legal expenses charged to the agency for services involving Congressional testimony, hearings, investigations and inquiries from 2000 through the day your agency compiles these records. The documents should include, but not necessarily be limited to, the amount charged, amount paid, attorney and firm contracted, relevant Congressional committee and dates of services rendered by the law firm to your agency.

I would like to receive the information in electronic format.

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. Through this request, I am gathering information on legal expenses that is of current interest to the public because of the ongoing budget debate, heightened scrutiny of federal expenditures and efforts to eliminate the federal deficit and begin paying down the public debt. This information is being sought on behalf of *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* for dissemination to the general public.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

As I am making this request as a journalist and this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone, rather than by mail, if you have questions regarding this request.

Please provide expedited processing of this request which concerns a matter of urgency. As a journalist, I am primarily engaged in disseminating information. The public has an urgent need for information about

federal spending because of ongoing budget negotiations. I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael Wereschagin

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

March 14, 2011

Mr. Michael Wereschagin
503 Martindale St., Third Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Dear Mr. Wereschagin:

This letter is USTR's response to your Freedom of Information Act request for **“access to and copies of an accounting of legal expenses charged to the agency for services involving congressional testimony, hearings, investigations and inquiries from 2000 through the day your agency compiles these records.”**

Please be advised that USTR has not incurred any legal expenses for services involving congressional testimony, hearings, investigations and inquiries.

Inasmuch as this constitutes a complete response to your request, I am closing your file in this office. In the event that you are dissatisfied with USTR's determination, you may appeal such a denial, within thirty (30) days, in writing to:

FOIA Appeals Committee
Office of the United States Trade Representative
1724 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked: "Freedom of Information Act Appeal". In the event you are dissatisfied with the results of any such appeal, judicial review will thereafter be available to you in the United States District Court for the judicial district in which you reside or have your principal place of business, or in the District of Columbia, where we searched for the records you seek.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the FOIA office at (202) 395-3419.

Sincerely,



Carmen Suro-Bredie
Chief FOIA Officer

Case File #11030106