

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2011

Dear Congressman Conyers:

You got an amendment passed into law. It wasn't a raise in the stagnant minimum wage or some tougher measures on corporate crime or needed revisions of the Patriot Act or curbing official illegality by the Executive branch. No, it was to save a drug company and its law firm a great deal of money and allowing higher prices for patients which included neutering the potential malpractice liability of the law firm (\$214 million worth) retroactively of course. This bailout is in an overall anti-small business, anti-small inventor, patent bill.

Amazing who was on the right side here – Lamar Smith, Jeff Sessions, Tom Coburn! They argued against interfering with the litigation.

This is the same half of Wilmer Hale – that is, the merged Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering that stood with the auto giants in 1966 in weakening the auto safety legislation. WCP lobbied successfully to delete the criminal penalty (properly defended by Tip O'Neill) provision from the bill for willful and knowing violation of safety standards.

This is the same half of Wilmer Hale that relentlessly fought to delay the DOT rule to install air bags in cars for almost 20 years. Lloyd Cutler was the mastermind on both drives against life-saving policies.

This is the same half of Wilmer Hale, recounted in Mark Green's book *The Other Government*, that took corporate clients aggressively against the health, safety and economic interests of the people.

So this is where we are with leading progressives in the Congress, since January 2009. No authentic push for Obama's 2008 promise to raise the federal minimum wage to \$9.50. No push for a comprehensive corporate criminal law code in the midst of a corporate crime wave. And the most minimum attention to the runaway outlaw presidency that, with Congressional complicity, has turned Congress for a decade into an inkblot during these endless, brutal, costly unilateral wars and remote interventions.

Promises, nice words, meetings, but nothing like the activated, driven toughness of those who call themselves Tea Partiers, where you work.

Sincerely,



Ralph Nader

P.O. Box 19312
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-387-8030