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## **Administration to Whistleblowers: "The Truth Shall Set You Free: You're Fired."**

CHICAGO, IL—*Today U.S. Representative Rahm Emanuel issued the following statement in support of those government officials who have told the truth and risked their careers doing it.*

"We teach our children to tell the truth. We should expect the same thing from our public officials. But in this Administration, the only thing the truth will get you is fired," said Emanuel.

The demotions of Lawrence Greenfeld and Bunnatine Greenhouse have received a lot of press attention, but they are merely the latest in a series of examples of individuals losing their jobs for telling the truth.

- General Eric Shinseki was forced to resign as Army Chief of Staff when he said "several hundred thousand" U.S. troops would be needed to occupy Iraq.
- Teresa Chambers, former chief of the United States Park Police Force, was fired for suggesting she lacked the resources to protect national parks and our national monuments.
- Andrew Eller was fired for blowing the whistle on the Fish and Wildlife Service for using bad science to approve construction projects and threatening panthers.
- Harvard Business School Professor Max Bazerman was removed as a government expert witness when he refused Justice Department officials' pressure to water down his recommendations in the federal government's tobacco lawsuit.
- Sibel Edmonds, an FBI linguist, was fired when she alleged espionage and security breaches.
- Rick Piltz was pressured to resign from the White House Climate Change Science Program when he accused the White House of editing its figures on the causes of global warming.
- Richard Foster, the government's longtime chief analyst of Medicare costs, was threatened with the loss of his job when he tried to tell Congress the true cost of the Prescription drug benefit.

All these firings are in addition to a series of inaccurate and misleading reports issued by this Administration. For example:

- Secretary of State Colin L. Powell was forced to revise the State Department's "Patterns of Global Terrorism" report which falsely indicated that terrorist acts had decreased worldwide.
- Senior Justice Department officials overrode the objections of career lawyers running the government's tobacco racketeering trial and ordered them to reduce the penalties sought at the close of a nine-month trial by \$120 billion.
- The Environmental Protection Agency ignored scientific evidence and agency protocols to set limits on mercury pollution that would line up with the Bush administration's free-market approaches to power plant pollution.
- Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson acknowledged that staff members altered a key report to soften its picture of widespread differences in health care for minorities.

"All of this from a President who promised to restore honesty and integrity to the White House," added Emanuel.