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October 2, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

RE: Poul Thorsen Extradition and Prosecution

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

I write to inquire about the long overdue extradition and prosecution of Poul Thorsen, MD, PhD. He was indicted in April 2011, (Criminal Indictment No. 1: 11-C R-194 United States of America v. Poul Thorsen) on 22 counts of wire fraud and money laundering. He is alleged to have stolen more than \$1 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) autism research grant, part of a Danish research collaboration. Information included in the indictment detailed that Thorsen submitted false invoices and created private bank accounts as part of a complex scheme to pilfer from our nation's limited autism research resources.

After waiting four years for the CDC to fulfill a Freedom of Information Act request, the author of a newly released report by the World Mercury Project provides important details about Dr. Thorsen, his interactions before and after the indictment, and his interactions with U.S. government employees. The report can be found at: <https://worldmercuryproject.org/advocacy-policy/criminal-conduct-poul-thorsen/>.

The CDC's oversight of the Danish research project and funds appears to have been grossly mismanaged. Because of a failure to prosecute this case in six years, it is not clear whether those involved in overseeing the project at the CDC were complicit in the initial criminal activity, or were incompetent as government managers. These same individuals continue to be involved in autism research and in managing federal resources. I was also disturbed to learn that federal employees from both the CDC and the National Institutes of Health continued to collaborate and publish with Dr. Thorsen for at least three years after the arrest warrant was issued.

Assistant U.S. Attorney, Stephen H. McClain has managed this case since its inception and according to the report author, remains in charge. An arrest warrant was issued in April 2011. One year later the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services listed Dr. Thorsen on their "Most Wanted" List; however, no extradition and prosecution has

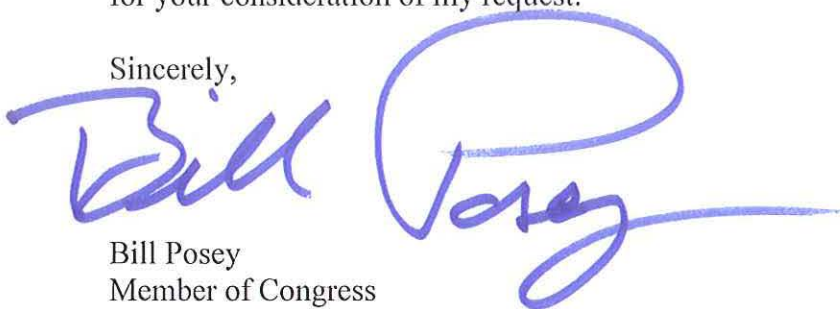
occurred. The United States has maintained an extradition treaty with Denmark since the Nixon Administration.

Dr. Thorsen is living in Denmark and potentially still working in one of two facilities through which he has published research – the Research Unit for Gynecology and Obstetrics, Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, or the Lillebælt Hospital, Kolding, Denmark.

I am requesting that you make bringing Poul Thorsen to justice a high priority. This fugitive needs to be brought back to the United States to face prosecution in 2017.

Please provide an update on the status of Dr. Thorsen's extradition and prosecution. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Posey". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Posey
Member of Congress