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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC**

November 21, 2011

Michael Steele

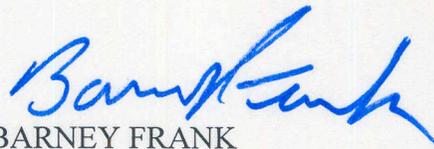
Dear Mr. Steele,

I was appalled to learn that after my appearance on the Al Sharpton show last Friday during which I pointed out that it was the Republicans who controlled the House from 1995 until 2006 and were therefore responsible for the fact that no action was taken to reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, you made the bizarre assertion that "In 1996 Republicans lost control of the House and Democrats were in control until 2002." You then, incredibly, say that "I understand the lapse of memory when it comes to making a point." Let me be very clear: you don't simply understand the role of a lapse of memory in making a point— you are the champion of it.

The undisputed facts are that the Republicans controlled the House from 1995 until 2006, and they controlled the Senate during that period for all but one year. Your assertion that the Democrats took control of the House in 1996 is especially hard to understand because this would mean that it was the Democratic House that impeached Bill Clinton in 1998, rather than a very partisan group of Republicans.

The fact that you were so grossly in error in your claim means that you understand how the truth of the matter undercuts Republican efforts to dodge blame for the fact that they failed to pass a law to regulate Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac during that period. I want to be clear here that I am not accusing you of conscious dishonesty—rather I think the need to perpetuate the Republican myth that it was the Democrats who blocked legislation to control Fannie and Freddie during that period is so strong as to have induced delusions.

If you check any reference book on the subject you will find that the Republicans in fact controlled the House during the period when you say they did not. I ask that you to publicly acknowledge this fact. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Al Sharpton program and I hope that they will be able to help clear up your blatant error.



BARNEY FRANK  
Member of Congress