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July 1, 2011

Director Stacia A. Hylton
United States Marshals Service
12th Floor CS3
2604 Jefferson Davis Highway
Alexandria, Virginia 22301

Dear Director Hylton:

I am objecting to the cost of the transportation for James J. "Whitey" Bulger, a federal detainee in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. News reports indicate he has been afforded transportation on a private luxury jet for his return from California to Boston, and on a U.S. Coast Guard Jayhawk MH-60 helicopter from the Plymouth County House of Correction to Logan Airport for an appearance at U.S. District Court. This seems to be far in excess of what the Marshals have provided in the past to federal detainees. In the absence of an extraordinary and specific security concern that would render alternative transport options a threat to public safety, I strongly urge your office to explore less costly and less extravagant means to bring this person and all federal detainees to and from their court appearances. Speaking on behalf of the people of Massachusetts who, like myself, have sat in traffic on Route 3 coming to and from Boston, I too have imagined about how nice it would be to have a helicopter get me where I needed to go. I agreed with U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz when she said Whitey Bulger would be "treated like every other defendant." So far, that does not seem to be the case.

Sincerely,



Scott P. Brown
United States Senator