

The AIG executive bonus scandal is creating some odd bedfellows. Today, Congressman Lee Terry enthusiastically agreed with President Barack Obama, who is asking that bonuses to AIG employees be blocked.

President Obama is livid with the insurance giant. After receiving billions in federal bailout money, the company revealed it has paid out substantial bonuses to executives. AIG has received more than 170 billion dollars from the federal government in the past six months. Reports have surfaced that AIG used some of the money to give substantial bonuses to traders, some of whom contributed to the company's near collapse.

"This is a corporation that finds itself in financial distress due to recklessness and greed," Obama said. "it's hard to understand how derivative traders under aig warranted any bonuses much less 165 million dollars in extra pay."

The President has asked Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner to use all legal means to block the bonuses or recover money already paid, and move Rep. Terry applauds. "AIG is showing a lack of sensitivity to the U.S. Taxpayer who fronted dollars to rescue the company from failure," Terry said in a statement. "I expect more from companies like AIG. An executive who takes a bonus and then defends it as saying it was 'owed' to them is a disgrace. I commend President Obama for pledging to use every legal avenue to stop the bonuses at AIG."

New York's Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is also stepping in to stop the bonuses. He wrote a letter to the head of AIG demanding the names of those receiving bonuses and threatening to issue subpoenas if the company does not comply. AIG's chief says he was under contractual obligations to award the bonuses.



