

DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
PATRICK McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
JIM JORDAN, OHIO
JASON CHAFFETZ, UTAH
CONNIE MACK, FLORIDA
TIM WALBERG, MICHIGAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
JUSTIN AMASH, MICHIGAN
ANN MARIE BUERKLE, NEW YORK
PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S., ARIZONA
RAUL R. LABRADOR, IDAHO
PATRICK MEEHAN, PENNSYLVANIA
SCOTT DESJARLAIS, M.D., TENNESSEE
JOE WALSH, ILLINOIS
TREY GOWDY, SOUTH CAROLINA
DENNIS A. ROSS, FLORIDA
FRANK C. GUINTA, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BLAKE FARENTHOLD, TEXAS
MIKE KELLY, PENNSYLVANIA

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074

FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974

MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

May 5, 2011

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, VIRGINIA
MIKE QUIGLEY, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JACKIE SPEIER, CALIFORNIA

LAWRENCE J. BRADY
STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Cummings:

I am in receipt of your letter of May 2, 2011. I am grateful for your interest in increasing Federal Government transparency, and I look forward to working with you as the Committee continues to pursue this very important element of its agenda. The Committee has already held at least three transparency-related hearings this year, as we continue to work toward the goal of enhancing Government-wide transparency in a comprehensive manner:

- This week, on May 3, the full committee held a hearing on, "Presidential Records in the New Millennium: Updating the Presidential Records Act & Other Federal Recordkeeping Statutes to Improve Electronic Records Preservation."
- On March 17, the full committee held a hearing on, "The Freedom of Information Act: Crowd-Sourcing Government Oversight."
- On March 11, the Committee's Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations & Procurement Reform held a hearing on "Transparency Through Technology: Evaluating Federal Open-Government Initiatives."

As I have indicated in the past, I believe that any attempt to comprehensively improve transparency at the Federal level should entail global solutions, such as e.g. the institution of Government-wide data standards that make important information (such as federal spending data) available to the public in an open and accessible format. We should not be satisfied with incremental changes that allow the vast majority of Government information to be veiled from the public. I therefore do not intend to

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings

May 5, 2011

Page 2

consider H.R. 1144 in Committee. I would note that the Senate last Congress failed to approve any of the individual provisions constituting H.R. 1144, when presented with the opportunity of adopting each as stand-alone bills.

I hope that you will support the Committee's agenda of pursuing fundamental reforms in this key area of its jurisdiction. I look forward to working with you in that endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell Issa", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Darrell Issa
Chairman