

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chair, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

We are writing to support the passage of H.R. 5811, the Electronic Message Preservation Act.

Investigations and reports by your Committee and by several nonprofits document the significant deficiencies in the preservation of email by the federal government. H.R. 5811 directs the Archivist of the United States to establish standards for the capture, management, and preservation of White House e-mails and other electronic communications and to issue regulations requiring agencies to preserve electronic communications in an electronic format. This legislation demonstrates that Congress paying attention to this serious issue, and taking steps to begin addressing the systemic problems with electronic records in general and electronic communications records that the federal agencies and the White House have failed for too long to address.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical aspect of government management and accountability. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues in the future.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries

Liberty Coalition

American Library Association

National Coalition Against Censorship

Association of Research Libraries

National Coalition for History

Common Cause

Mine Safety and Health News

Essential Information

Minnesota Coalition on Government Information

Freedom of Information, Oklahoma

Mississippi Center for Freedom of Information

Government Accountability Project (GAP)

National Freedom of Information Coalition

iSolon.org

National Security Archives

National Press Club

9/11 Research Project

OpenTheGovernment.org

Peacefire

People For the American Way

Project on Government Oversight
(POGO)

ReadtheBill.org Foundation

Society of Professional Journalists

Washington Coalition for Open Government