May 10, 2011

The Honorable Darrell Issa                      The Honorable Elijah Cummings
U.S. House of Representatives                   U.S. House of Representatives
House Oversight and Government Reform Committee House Oversight and Government Reform Committee
2157 Rayburn House Office Building              B350A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515                            Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Daniel Lungren
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on House Administration
1307 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman and Ranking Member,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations concerned with government accountability and transparency, we are writing in support of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, introduced by Representative Mike Quigley.

The Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act requires that any report required by statute to be issued to Congress and releasable under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) be posted on a website managed by the US Government Printing Office (GPO). The reports would be available no later than 30 days after their transmission to Congress, and would be searchable by a number of categories.

Congressionally mandated reports contain a wealth of information that enable the public to better understand how well federal agencies are (or are not) fulfilling their respective missions, from ensuring the safety of our drugs and food supply, to protecting the environment, and monitoring the soundness of our financial institutions. The Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act makes it easier for the public to find this information and use it to hold officials accountable for their actions.

We appreciate your time and attention to this issue, and urge that you pass the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this issue further, please contact Patrice McDermott, Director of OpenTheGovernment.org (pmcdermott@openthegovernment.org or 202-332-6736).

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries
American Association of University Professors
American Library Association
American Society of News Editors
Association of Research Libraries
Bill of Rights Defense Committee
Center for Media and Democracy
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington - CREW
Defending Dissent Foundation
Demos
DownSizeDC.org, Inc.
Essential Information
Government Accountability Project - GAP
iSolon.org
Liberty Coalition
MuckRuck.org
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Coalition for History
National Freedom of Information Coalition
No More Guantanamos
Northern California Association of Law Libraries
OMB Watch
OpenTheGovernment.org
Project On Government Oversight – POGO
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
Society of Professional Journalists
Special Libraries Association
Sunlight Foundation
Union of Concerned Scientists, Scientific Integrity Program
Washington Coalition for Open Government

c: Representative Mike Quigley