

March 13, 2007



Chairman Henry Waxman
Ranking Member Tom Davis
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

1634 I Street, NW Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20006
202.637.9800
fax 202.637.0968
<http://www.cdt.org>

Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Davis:

I write to thank you wholeheartedly for you and your committee's work in advancing H.R. 1309. I know that you feel as strongly as CDT does that this bill is of vital importance to the openness and accountability of the federal government. Streamlining the FOIA request process through individualized tracking of requests, including time limits for FOIA replies and instituting administrative penalties for unfounded rejections are all excellent steps to make FOIA, already a model for the world, even stronger.

Two years ago I testified in front of your committee on the importance of the Freedom of Information Act and the then-current efforts to amend it. While the bill did not pass last Congress, CDT is pleased to see the current bill, which shares many important features with that previous bill, come to the floor of the House.

CDT wholeheartedly supports H.R. 1309 and urges you and all of your colleagues in the House and in the Senate to vote for it and bring some of these much needed improvements to the Freedom of Information Act into law.

Sincerely,

Ari Schwartz
Deputy Director
Center for Democracy & Technology