



OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

April 24, 2012

NATIONAL
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The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
United States House of Representatives,
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings,

Thank you for your continuing interest in improving the administration of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Enclosed please find a report that describes, in accordance with Title 5 of United States Code, Section 552 (h)(2)(C), policy recommendations and other matters that the National Archives and Record Administration's (NARA) Office of Government Information Services' (OGIS) has identified that could be addressed make further improvements in the administration of FOIA. To provide you with additional background regarding OGIS, which as you know, opened in September 2009, I also have enclosed a report of OGIS' second year of operations, through Fiscal Year 2011. This report provides a description of the types of requests and issues that OGIS has handled. An identical letter and report have been sent to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

This report, as well as the report on our first year, highlights agency Best Practices and other strategies for making FOIA work better. OGIS also regularly posts on its blog suggestions to improve the FOIA process administratively, such as recently during Sunshine Week: training for all government employees in the basics of FOIA; standardizing agency FOIA web pages, including developing, with stakeholder input, an easy-to-use design template for agencies to customize; top-down agency support for FOIA; and professionalizing the agency FOIA career track.

We appreciate your continued support as OGIS has been transformed from statutory language to reality. Our office is an important symbol of Congress's vision of a better FOIA.



Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings

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I hope that you find this information helpful as you examine agencies' implementation of FOIA. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call NARA's Office of Congressional Affairs at 202-357-5100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Miriam Nisbet".

Miriam Nisbet, Director
Office of Government Information Services

Enclosures:

OGIS Policy Recommendations for Improving Freedom of Information Act Procedures and the Administration of the Office of Government Information Services, April 2012

OGIS Report: Building A Bridge, March 2012, <https://ogis.archives.gov/about-ogis/ogis-reports.htm>