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Can anyone here speak to why that CAP Goal doesn't exist anymore or whether it might be a useful thing for achieving many of the goals that you all have described?

ALEX HOWARD>> Sorry to hear that. Or not hear it. Given you're discussing recommendation to improve our nation's FOIA compliance and performance, it seems relevant that a directive from the past President to make this a cross-agency priority was removed. And I hope you all will consider making the recommendation that such a goal be restored since it seems to be directly relevant to improving records management and to saving the nation money and being more accountable to the public.

With respect to that, will the Committee make any recommendations to Congress regarding the FOIA reform bill that members are drafting in the wake of the recent Supreme Court decision on FOIA?

ALINA M. SEMO >> I can certainly respond to that. It has not been on our agenda on any of the Subcommittees. So for Committee members, something to chew over and see whether you want to discuss it within your own Subcommittee. Okay. We're putting it out there.

ALEX HOWARD >> That draft is in active participation, I would encourage you to participate in offering your expertise on this.

MELANIE PUSTAU >> I just feel like I don't want to leave your previous question completely left hanging. You've been here for the whole meeting and this, is the quintessential example of a cross-agency both private and public sector group, right here and you heard from all these different Subcommittees. You heard recommendation after recommendation. To me what you just witnessed for two hours is a beautiful example of solid FOIA work being done across the government. There's certainly no lack of interest, motivation, initiative in FOIA across the government. So I'm sort of surprised that you would say that after listening for two hours.

ALEX HOWARD >> Well I've been reporting on the United States government's compliance for the FOIA for a decade here in DC and I've gone to the hearings at which Congress has held your office accountable for that performance. And I think we all can agree that when a President's management agenda includes certain CAP goals it creates an understanding that this is a priority. And removing from such a goal also sends a signal across government. So, while I am very grateful for the service and the commitment and the people here who are in government and for the people who are volunteering to serve this community across the country, I think it is also fair to point out where and when given priorities have been de-prioritized without any accountability or transparency, and the impact that may be having upon the shared goals of the people around





