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
American Library Association
Association of Research Libraries
Common Cause
Essential Information
Freedom of Information, Oklahoma
Government Accountability Project (GAP)
iSolon.org

Liberty Coalition
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Coalition for History
Mine Safety and Health News
Minnesota Coalition on Government Information
Mississippi Center for Freedom of Information
National Freedom of Information Coalition