

BILL POSEY

8TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEES:

SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SPACE SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCIAL SERVICES
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND
INSURANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL ESTUARY CAUCUS, FOUNDER
HOUSE AEROSPACE CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE
CONGRESSIONAL AUTISM CAUCUS
MILITARY VETERANS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

www.posey.house.gov

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2150 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3671
FAX: (202) 225-3516
MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE:
2725 JUDGE FRAN JAMIESON WAY, BLDG. C
MELBOURNE, FL 32940
(321) 632-1776
FAX: (321) 639-8595

DISTRICT OFFICE:
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ADMIN. BLDG. A
(772) 226-1701

DISTRICT OFFICE:
BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES
IN TITUSVILLE
(321) 383-6090

October 19, 2020

Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member James Comer
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2105 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Adam Smith
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Mac Thornberry
House Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney, Chairman Smith and Ranking Members Comer and Thornberry,

For two decades, the Federal government has struggled with the challenges of electronic records management. The GAO has published a number of reports over this period that have disclosed continuing deficiencies in achieving the goals of archiving electronic data. Most of the study of electronic information management has focused on the role of archiving information and is led by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in their role as the Federal agency charged with the retention and disposition of recorded information.

We believe the Federal government should recognize the definition of an agency 'record' as 'all recorded information, regardless of characteristics' and manage all agency information with a focus on how it contributes to day to day agency operations, public transparency and responding to requests from the public such as those under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Managing information with an emphasis on the end of the line for such information interferes with a more mature information management culture in our Federal agencies. For example, agencies promulgate standards for records management applications rather than more strategic and comprehensive standards adding value to agency information over the life cycle as information is used and generated. We need a more strategic approach. An integrated approach to information management should result in achieving sound records management, preservation and retention as a natural and predictable outcome of a broader information management strategy.

We are asking that you consider asking the appropriate government agency to arrange for a study of our government information management strategies to ensure that we adopt a more strategic

approach that emphasizes managing all agency information, including structured and unstructured electronic information, over the entirety of its appropriate life cycle. We recommend that the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) be asked to conduct this study with public transparency and the collaboration of key stakeholders. NAPA leadership of this effort will connect to the community of public administration practitioners and draw on their experience in managing information throughout the public sector. The study should explore the overall best practices for comprehensive information management as conducted by the agency's Records Management Program.

We will be pleased to work with you and the committee to sponsor the appropriate legislation to meet this fundamental need. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Posey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Posey
Member of Congress