

April 24, 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: XBRL Support for the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2011, H.R. 2146:

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings:

On behalf of the members of XBRL US, the nonprofit consortium for XBRL business reporting standards, I am writing in support of the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act legislation which will encourage the use of data standards for federal spending. Data standards are a critical tool to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of complex financial information. Because data standards enable comparability and compatibility, such standards provide needed clarity so all levels of government can better track and evaluate programs.

One such data standard, eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL), is a free and open standard, developed to specifically handle the reporting of financial and performance-related information for business and government data. Using XBRL to track, report, and evaluate the effectiveness of government programs will ensure that government agencies, the public and others have access to the most timely, accurate data produced in an efficient and cost-effective manner. It needs no further adaptation or development.

XBRL is uniquely suited to financial, accounting and performance-related data for business and government reporting. The ability of XBRL to enable greater standardization means that government agencies and the entities reporting to them can leverage the same software and infrastructure from agency to agency, and even more importantly, they can avail themselves of the tools already available on the market today. XBRL is a low cost solution that needs no further development and can leverage existing market tools, infrastructure and expertise.

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XBRL US applauds your leadership on this critical issue. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the effectiveness of XBRL initiatives in place in the U.S. and internationally. Should you require further information, and to assist in your efforts in any way, I can be reached at 917-582-6159 or Campbell.Pryde@xbrl.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Campbell Pryde". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Campbell Pryde
President and CEO
XBRL US, Inc.