

July 29, 2013

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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And

The Honorable Tom Coburn
Ranking Member, Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2013, S. 994

Dear Chairman Carper and Ranking Member Coburn:

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, S 944, which will mandate the use of open source data standards for federal spending. We encourage you and all of the members of the Committee to support this bill in the Committee's upcoming business meeting on Wednesday, July 31, 2013.

Data standards are a critical tool to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of communicating and analyzing the information needed to track and evaluate government programs by enabling comparability and compatibility. Using open standards 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. Open standards are a low cost solution that can leverage existing market tools, infrastructure and expertise.

XBRL US understands the importance of standardization and applauds your leadership on this critical issue. We welcome the opportunity to discuss the effectiveness of data standards 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, Campbell.pryde@xbri.us.



Campbell Pryde
President and CEO
XBRL US, Inc.

CC: Members of the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee