

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 4, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

During discussions regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) response to Senator Grassley's December 2011 request for documents, lawyers in the Department's Office of General Counsel represented to Senate Judiciary Committee staff that, due to internal processes, DHS is unable to produce documents to Congress electronically. The counsel's office declined to explain what those internal processes are.

By unnecessarily printing tens of thousands of pages of documents, DHS is harming the environment and wasting taxpayer money. Moreover, the practice of electronic document production is standard for most federal departments and agencies.

In a November 9, 2011, executive order, President Obama asked agencies to cease the needless printing of documents when an electronic version is sufficient.¹ We applaud President Obama's executive order and are concerned that DHS is not proactively reducing unnecessary paper use when responding to congressional document requests.

To help reduce unnecessary government waste, please provide responses to the following questions:

1. What is the "internal process" represented by the Office of General Counsel that precludes the Department of Homeland Security from providing electronic documents in response to a congressional committee inquiry?
2. Are you aware of any other federal department or agency with a similar "internal process"?

¹ Executive Order 13589, Promoting Efficient Spending, Section 5, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/09/executive-order-promoting-efficient-spending> (Nov. 9, 2011).

3. What steps has the Department taken to comply with Section 5 of executive order 13589? Please provide any guidance or memoranda any Department official has issued related to the executive order.
4. How many pages of documents has DHS produced to Congress since you were sworn in as Secretary?
5. Has DHS ever provided documents to Congress electronically or via e-mail?
6. Are there any DHS procedures which make it impossible for the Department to produce documents electronically to Congress? If so, what are they?
7. President Obama recently announced that he would like to raise DHS cybersecurity spending by more than \$300 million in 2013, to over \$769 million. Would any portion of these additional funds be used to enable DHS to send documents to Congress in a secure electronic format?

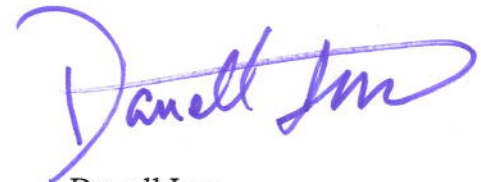
In addition, please make relevant staff available for a briefing on the Department's efforts to reduce its paper usage when responding to congressional document requests.

Thank you for your prompt attention and response to the questions raised in this letter. Please provide an electronic response to this letter as soon as possible, but by no later than June 18, 2012. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Chris Lucas of Senator Grassley's staff at (202) 224-5225 or Jonathan Skladany of Chairman Issa's staff at (202) 225-5074.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary



Darrell Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform