September 9, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
235 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

The Program Assessment and Results Act (PAR Act) currently before the House provides members of Congress with an important opportunity to improve effective management of every federal program and demonstrate tangible results for the taxpayer's dollars.

The PAR Act builds on the principles of the 1993 Government Performance and Results Act (1993) by requesting the Office of Management and Budget evaluate federal programs at least once every five years and publish the assessments. Such assessments are necessary to ensure that Congress and the public are provided with information needed to help judge whether federal programs are meeting their goals and providing services to citizens in a cost effective manner.

During the past twelve months, the Subcommittee on Government Reform Efficiency and Financial Management has held four hearings on the need to improve performance evaluations of federal programs and has taken testimony from experts in the field of performance budgeting, Administration officials, and the authors of two Government Accountability Office reports on the implementation of GPRA and PART.

The consensus from all these sources as well as the majority of Government Reform Committee is clear: program-by-program evaluations are essential and necessary to ensure the best use of tax dollars. With the growing limit on resources available for new and existing programs, Congress must avail itself of the best tools available to gauge how those resources are spent.

Our organizations are the nation's "good government" groups. We work individually and collectively to improve performance, accountability, and transparency in government. As such we are calling for the House to follow the Government Reform Committee's lead and carefully consider the PAR Act during the FY 2006 budget cycle.

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We stand ready to assist you and your colleagues in any way in better understanding the way the performance evaluations called for in the PAR Act would best serve the American people as well as how Congress can assure that programs will be evaluated for efficiency, effectiveness and redundancy between programs and improve the outcomes generated with taxpayer's money.

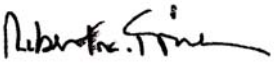
Sincerely,



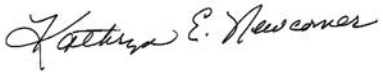
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