

# Appendix A: Congressional Letters of Request

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FRANKLIN G. POLK, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

May 27, 1993

Dr. Roger Herdman  
Director  
Office of Technology Assessment  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20510-8025

Dear Dr. Herdman:

The technological advances which have led to increased access to network information resources such as "digital libraries" and shared databases present serious new security and privacy challenges that need to be addressed. These new challenges are clearly the most pressing computer-security issues that have emerged since enactment of P. L. 100-235 in 1987. And the importance of these issues is intensified by industry and government trends that are moving toward a highly integrated, interactive network for use by both the private and public sectors.

Security and privacy issues in a network environment are also being brought to the forefront by legislative initiatives to spur development of high-speed networking, as well as by elements of the Administration's technology plan addressing more widespread use of Internet and development of

the National Research and Education Network. Members of the government, research, educational, and business communities, as well as the general public, are beginning to use network information resources and will, increasingly, come to rely upon them.

I am concerned about vulnerabilities from increased connectivity of information systems within and outside government. Without timely attention to security issues for such large scale computer networks, the prospect of plagiarism, corruption of databases, and improper use of copyrighted or sensitive corporate data could affect the privacy and livelihood of millions of Americans.

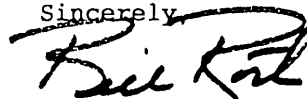
In order to address these problems, I request that OTA study the changing needs for protecting privacy and proprietary information. I would like your review to consider the technological and institutional. privacy and security measures that can be used to ensure the integrity, availability, and proper use of digital libraries and other network information resources.

To the extent necessary, OTA's study should assess the need for new or updated federal computer security guidelines and federal computer-security and encryption standards. This study should build upon OTA's 1987 report on computer security (Defending Secrets, Sharing Data: New Locks and Keys for Electronic Information), but should focus on security and privacy concerns for networked information given the growth in federal support for large scale networks.

I appreciate your prompt consideration of this request. To be of most use, OTA's report should be available for the Committee's use not later than Spring 1994.

Should you have any questions, feel free to call me or Mr. Mark Forman or Mr. Michael Fleming of my staff at 224-2441.

Sincerely,



William V. Roth, Jr.  
U. S. Senate

WVR/maf

JOHN GLENN, OHIO, CHAIRMAN

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

July 1, 1993

Dr. Roger Herdman  
Director  
Office of Technology Assessment  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E.  
Washington, D. C. 20510-8025

Dear Dr. Herdman:

By this letter, I would like to request to be a co-sponsor, with Senator William Roth, of the planned OTA study on Information Security and Privacy in Network Environments.

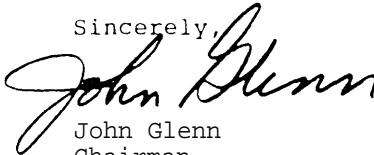
As Senator Roth said in his May 27, 1993, letter to you, technological advances are leading to a new world of networked information in which privacy and security concerns are critical. It is incumbent upon Congress to be informed and ready to develop any needed legislative solutions for these emerging issues.

While these are matters of national importance, they are also pressing issues within the context of government operations and the jurisdiction of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, which I chair, and in which Senator Roth is Ranking Republican Member. For this same reason, I requested OTA to undertake its current Electronic Service Delivery study. And thus, I would like to co-sponsor the very complementary study on information privacy and security.

Thank you very much. If you should have any questions, please call David Plocher on the Committee staff (224-4751).

Best regards.

Sincerely,



John Glenn  
Chairman

cc : Senator Roth

JG/dp

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U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Energy and Commerce

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE

Washington, DC 20515-6119

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FORD HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
PHONE (202) 226-2424

DAVID H. MOULTON  
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

August 10, 1993

Dr. Roger Herdman  
Director  
Office of Technology Assessment  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, S. E .  
Washington, D. C. 20510-8025

Dear Dr. Herdman:

As this country moves forward with implementation of advanced communications networks, we must maintain security and privacy for all involved. Your planned study on Information Security and Privacy in Network Environments will enable Congress to determine how best to ensure security and privacy in these increasingly complex technological times.

As Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, I am committed to supporting communications that will both enhance education, health care, business, and individuals, and protect the users of such communications. Accordingly, I request to be a co-sponsor, along with Senators Roth and Glenn, of your timely study on network security and privacy.

Thank you for your work in this area. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Gerry Waldron or Colin Crowell of my Subcommittee staff, at 226-2424 should you have any questions or concerns as you proceed.

Sincerely,

*Edward J. Markey*  
Edward J. Markey  
Chairman

cc: Senator Roth  
Senator Glenn