COMMON CAUSE
Holding Power Accountable

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January 31, 2012

Honorable Leland Yee
State Capitol
Room 4074
Sacramento, CA 94248

RE: SB 1002 (Yee) – Open Searchable Data Standard – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Yee,

On behalf of California Common Cause and our 400,000 national members, please accept this letter of support for Senate Bill 1002, which brings simplicity to public records information by requiring"user-friendly" and machine-readable formats for electronic records.

SB 1002 would require public agencies to make public records not exempt from disclosure that are in an electronic format to be made available in an electronic format when requested; at the requester's expense. The agency however, is not required to reproduce a record that the agency no longer has in electronic form. SB 1002 would also require that information an agency is required to provide on the Internet must be "user-friendly and accessible." This includes the data or document to be easily copied or downloaded and searchable on Internet search engines.

California Common Cause strongly supports these measures because this will bring accessibility to documents and information not easily available in their current state. SB 1002 will make gathering information easier, in a user-friendly manner. The current inaccessibility to documents, due to a lack of easily searchable text and format, makes the process of gathering information difficult. Accessibility to these public records would encourage voters to seek out information that would help them make informed decisions.

For these reasons, Common Cause looks forward to partnering with your office. Please contact me at pung@commoncause.org or (916) 520-4070 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Phillip Ung

Phillip Ung
Policy Advocate