



**Sept. 28, 2006**

*Statement of Chellie Pingree,  
President, Common Cause*

Common Cause strongly supports H.R. 550, the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2005, that would require electronic voting machines to produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot.

The voting debacle in the recent Maryland primary makes clear that electronic voting machines are not ready for the critical task of casting and counting votes. But of the many problems in our system of voting, this one is fixable. Congress can move quickly to pass H.R. 550 and require a voter verifiable paper ballot with mandatory random audits for electronic voting machines and help restore voters' faith in our elections system.

Since 2003, when Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) first introduced H.R. 550, computer security experts have almost unanimously endorsed his plan for requiring every voting machine in the United States to produce or incorporate a paper record of each voter's ballot that can be checked and verified by that voter, and used in subsequent recounts and audits.

Election experts, civil rights activists and citizens concerned about their vote have come to recognize the need for these requirements as election after election in state after state has demonstrated all too clearly the probability of voting machine malfunction.

In the past three years, a large body of research by government, academic, and corporate entities has confirmed the problems with paperless voting and has reiterated the need for voter-verified paper records and mandatory random audits. Today, 215 co-sponsors—Democratic, Republican, and Independent—stand with Representative Holt to support this legislation.

Now, it is time for Congress to act.