



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Fourteenth District
California*

September 5, 2007

Mr. Alan Dechert, President
Open Voting Consortium
9560 Windrose Lane
Granite Bay, California 95746

Dear Mr. Dechert,

Because H.R. 811, the *Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act* is likely to come to the House Floor for a vote this week, I want to follow-up on our recent meeting in Palo Alto and address the concerns of the Open Voting Consortium.

While H.R. 811 does not mandate "open source" software for voting systems, it requires manufacturers to reveal election-specific source code to qualified persons in the election process. There currently are no such requirements and this has led to major hurdles in litigation over voting system failures. While this provision in H.R. 811 doesn't completely address concerns about closed software for electronic voting machines, I think it's a significant step in furthering the important national goal of establishing greater accountability in our election system.

While H.R. 811 is not perfect (no bill is) it has been years in the making. We need to get a bill to the floor that secures a paper trail. People across the country demand this. What concerns me is if H.R. 811 is not enacted, the issue will not be addressed in the 110th Congress. We'll be stuck with the status quo, with no changes and no reforms and this is unacceptable.

I will continue to support efforts to expand open source technology, ensuring that the government utilizes opens source systems where feasible.

Thank you for your important advocacy.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress