

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4904

The Honorable Robert C. Tapella  
Public Printer of the United States  
Government Printing Office  
732 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20401

October 28, 2009

Dear Mr. Tapella:

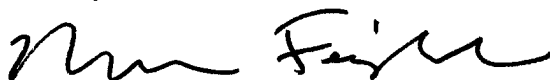
As Chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I write concerning the Government Printing Office's print and online publication of the legal treatise *The Constitution of the United States of America: Analysis, and Interpretation*, also known as *The Constitution Annotated*. *The Constitution Annotated*, having been continuously published for almost 100 years and containing analysis of nearly 8,000 U.S. Supreme Court cases, is an invaluable resource for students, scholars, and other individuals interested in learning how the U.S. Supreme Court interprets our nation's governing document.

As you know, *The Constitution Annotated* is currently available online only in plain text and PDF formats, which do not allow readers to efficiently search and otherwise navigate the text. Furthermore, though statutorily required to update the treatise every two years, the Congressional Research Service ("CRS") apparently often amends the material more frequently and makes that information available through the congressional intranet. It is my understanding that these additional materials are not made available to the public until the subsequent two year update.

I therefore request that *The Constitution Annotated* be published online in XML format so as to enhance its content's navigability. I also request that any updates be made available to the general public at the same time as they are made available to Congress. Because CRS provides the publication to the GPO in XML format, it should not be difficult or costly to comply with this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have questions, please contact Bob Schiff in my office at (202) 224-5323.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Feingold  
U.S. Senator

cc: Daniel Mulhollan, Congressional Research Service