The Honorable Leonard Lance  
426 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC

April 2, 2018

Dear Representative Lance,

Thank you for your leadership and indefatigable efforts to provide public access to Congressional Research Service reports. You first introduced legislation to make CRS reports available to the public only 338 days after you were elected, and did so on a bipartisan basis.

You persisted in advocating for public access, introducing legislation in the 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th and 115th Congresses. But you did more than just introduce legislation— you fought for it. You continued to work on a bipartisan basis to amass supporters, advance public interest arguments, and keep the legislation in the limelight. With the passage of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, public access to the reports is now the law of the land.

Within 90 days—180 at the most—the Library of Congress must publish new and updated CRS reports on its website, following the path laid out by your bipartisan, bicameral legislation. This is no less than a transformation of how the public can learn about the important issues before Congress from a non-partisan, expert source. No longer will CRS reports remain the domain of the well-connected and the well-heeled. We cannot thank you enough.

We’re not counting the proverbial chickens before they’ve hatched. We will be watching so see whether the Library meets its deadline and whether the website lives up to its requirements. But we are comforted knowing that you will be watching, too. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

With gratitude and appreciation,

American Association of Law Libraries  
American Commitment  
American Library Association  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Association of Research Libraries  
Center for Media and Democracy  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington  
Coalition to Reduce Spending  
Common Cause  
Data Coalition  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Demand Progress Action  
Electronic Privacy Information Center

Issue One  
Liberty Coalition  
National Coalition for History  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Security Archive  
National Security Counselors  
Niskanen Center  
Northern California Association of Law Libraries  
Open the Government  
Participatory Politics Foundation  
Project On Government Oversight  
Quorum  
R Street Institute