

WILLIAM L. OWENS
23RD DISTRICT, NEW YORK



COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS,
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PLEASE RESPOND TO
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January 4, 2011

Hon. Jeb Hensarling
Chairman
House Republican Conference
129 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. David Dreier
Chairman
House Rules Committee
233 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hensarling and Chairman Dreier:

It is my understanding that the House Republican Conference will meet in the coming days to discuss changes to the Rules of the House for the 112th Congress.

I believe that the new House Rules should improve transparency and make legislation as easy to understand as possible – both for Members and the public. Therefore, I would like to request that you include a change to the proposed Rules of the House requiring that (1) any bill or joint resolution that amends an existing law identify the section, subsection, or other subdivision of that law sufficiently to enable the intent and effect of the legislation to be clearly understood; (2) the matter to be deleted from the existing law be enclosed in brackets; and (3) any new matter added to be in italics.

Redlining the changes that a new piece of legislation makes to an existing section of law is a commonsense change that will result in greater transparency and provide the American public with the opportunity to more easily review and consider pending legislation. This is a common workplace tool that should be employed by the House.

I have enclosed an amendment draft of this change. It is my hope that you will consider making this modification to the Rules package for the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,

BILL OWENS
Member of Congress