

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**R. BRUCE JOSTEN**  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

May 7, 2012

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, opposes H.R. 4004, the "Federal Research Public Access Act of 2012," and urges you not to bring it before the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for consideration.

H.R. 4004 would require that final manuscripts of peer-reviewed, private-sector journal articles that report on federally-funded research can be made freely available on government-run websites no later than six months after their publication.

Although the Chamber has previously advocated for, and continues to support, public access to the raw data resulting from federally-funded research, the Chamber believes that the government should not undermine the fundamental intellectual property rights for research works that reflect meaningful value-added by publishers.

Copyright protection provides an important incentive for publishers to invest in the peer review of, publication, and distribution of scientific journal articles about the latest government funded research. This commitment of resources by the private sector aids the advancement and integrity of science and contributes to substantial gains in research and other knowledge.

The Chamber believes that this legislation would undermine incentives for journal publishers to invest in the peer review, editing, publishing, dissemination, and archiving of scientific journal articles. As a consequence, the bill would diminish the high quality of scientific and other scholarly research in the United States as well as endanger American jobs within the publishing industry.

The Chamber looks forward to working with you and other members of the committee to ensure that the public is provided access to the results of federally-funded research in a manner that also respects the rights of the publishing community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." being the most prominent.

R. Bruce Josten

Cc: The Members of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform