

Beth Noveck
US Office of Science and Technology Policy
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street Room 5228
Washington, DC 20502

April 7, 2009

Dear Beth,

We are proud to present to you and the Open Government Directive a remarkable report that has been developed based on the work of 34 managers from 23 different federal agencies and departments at our Champions of Participation conference last week. The recommendations in this report reflect decades of experience working in the federal government to create opportunities for greater participation, collaboration and transparency. In addition to sharing a deep commitment to open government, these managers also share an understanding of what it will take to create real, sustained change.

The Champions of Participation report looks at concrete steps that the Open Government Directive can take to ensure that our government values participation, collaboration and transparency. In the words of one of the conference participants: "Meaningful civic engagement is a key part of every agency's mission. It is not just a means to an end. It is not something we do when we "have time." It is not something "in addition" to our mission work, IT IS our mission work. Through meaningful civic engagement we will be successful in achieving together a whole suite of important outcomes for our society - affordable health care, healthy landscapes, alternative energy sources and a sound economy."

Our four organizations were honored to have the opportunity to work with this passionate and dedicated group of practitioners. We found that we had a great deal to learn from their experiences working in the federal government and hope that you will be able to incorporate their ideas and proposals.

The Open Government Directive is a remarkable opportunity for President Obama to fulfill his commitment to govern in a new way. We hope that Champions of Participation will be the first of many opportunities for our organizations to contribute to the Administration's efforts to create a stronger democracy for the American people.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carolyn J. Lukensmeyer
AmericaSpeaks

Miles Rapoport
Demos

Martha McCoy
Everyday Democracy

Archon Fung
Harvard University

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Engaging Citizens in Governance



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