



For immediate release:

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EnviroJustice Urges No-Fee Online Public Access to Congressional Research Service Reports

MARTINEZ, CA – EnviroJustice today sixteen partners in the Open the Government coalition and others in sending letters to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, members of the House Administration Committee and the Senate Rules Committee to urge them, in light of their support of congressional transparency initiatives, to ensure no-fee public access to taxpayer-supported Congressional Research Service (CRS) reports.

For the past several years, academics, journalists, open government advocates and other concerned citizens have urged Congress to provide free, public access to the unclassified, taxpayer-funded reports produced by the CRS through the Internet. In the face of those mounting demands, however, CRS officials recently moved to impose even greater restrictions on how researchers can share public information and who has access to the reports. The continued refusal on the part of CRS management, newly reiterated by Director Daniel Mulhollan, to give taxpayers free access to this important source of government information sends the clearest signal yet that Congress must act in order to fix this unfair and untenable policy.

“Faith-based communities and environmental groups need access to these important reports to support their watchdog activities,” declared Gregory Hile, president of EnviroJustice.

The letter can be found at <http://www.openthegovernment.org/documents/Pelosi.pdf>.

EnviroJustice promotes fundamental systemic change and environmental justice through education, activism, and mobilization from a progressive, faith-based perspective.

For more information on the letter, contact:

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For more information on EnviroJustice:

<http://www.envirojustice.org>

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