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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6325

April 29, 2014

JEAN PARVIN BORDEWICH, STAFF DIRECTOR
MARY SUIT JONES, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Davita Vance-Cooks, Public Printer
U.S. Government Printing Office
732 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20401-0001

Dear Madam Public Printer:

Thank you for your invitation to attend the 2014 Federal Depository Library Conference. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, I cannot be present, but ask that you share this letter with the attendees on my behalf.

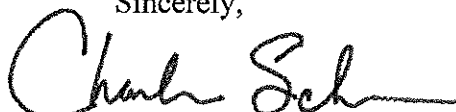
As Chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing, I want to recognize the 2013 and 2014 Federal Depository Libraries of the Year. I regret that my schedule did not allow me to be with you today at the Conference, but I want to applaud the work of all our Federal Depository Libraries and Librarians and specifically congratulate the Libraries of the year – the Arizona State Library, the University of Iowa Libraries, the Ottenheimer Library at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, and from my own hometown, the Brooklyn College Library. All of the award winners deserve special acknowledgement, but I am especially proud that Stephanie Walker, chief librarian, and the Brooklyn College Library are being honored for their leadership and expertise in transitioning from a traditional to a modern library with a wide range of electronic resources.

From the earliest days of our nation, Congress recognized that public documents are vital to ensuring a vibrant democracy. James Madison, in his notes on the Federal Convention of 1787, emphasized the delegates' concern over the government's responsibility to inform the citizenry when he wrote, "It should not be in the option of the legislature to conceal their proceedings."

This is the GPO's primary mission: "Keeping America informed." And it is the Federal Depository Libraries and Librarians who ensure that every American has free access to important public records.

Congratulations on your successful conference, and thank you for your work to keep our citizens informed.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Schumer