

April 2, 2014

The Honorable Bruce Borzino
Director, National Technical Information Service
Submitted via email

Dear Director Borzino,

Last year's Government Accountability Office report highlighting areas of government duplication found that many of the reports sold by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) to other federal agencies and members of the public are available free of charge – including my own. Nearly all of these reports can be quickly located using a simple Google search.

A search of your database reveals NTIS is selling at least six of the oversight reports issued by my office. Each of these reports is publically posted on my website, available for anyone to access for free. However, NTIS is charging up to \$48 for a printed copy of these reports. This includes the annual *Wastebook*, which details outrageous Washington spending and mismanagement.

I request that the following oversight reports, available for purchase from NTIS, be immediately provided to the public *free of charge*. Please also provide to my staff the number of times each report has been purchased and whether the purchases were by other federal agencies or the public.

- *Wastebook 2011* is [available](#) from the NTIS for \$48. It is also [posted](#) on my website.
- *Wastebook 2010* is [available](#) from the NTIS for \$48. It is also [posted](#) on my website.
- *2008: Worst Waste of the Year*, is [available](#) from the NTIS for \$33. It is also [posted](#) on my website.
- *Subsidies of the Rich and Famous* is [available](#) from the NTIS for \$33. It is also [posted](#) on my website.
- *The Department of Everything is* [available](#) from the NTIS for \$48. It is also [posted](#) on my website.
- *Stimulus Checkup 2009* is [available](#) from the NTIS for \$48. It is also [posted](#) on my website.

Thank you for working to remedy this ridiculous situation. It is inappropriate to charge taxpayers and federal agencies for these documents, which are posted online for all to view at no cost. I look forward to your swift response.

Sincerely,

Tom A. Coburn, MD
United States Senate

Cc: The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary, Department of Commerce