



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Technical Information Service
5301 Shawnee Road
Alexandria, VA 22312

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Tom A. Coburn
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

Thank you for your letter of April 2, 2014 and I appreciate the opportunity to offer the following responses to your concerns and questions.

NTIS has a unique mission: to promote American innovation and economic growth by collecting and disseminating scientific, technical and engineering information to the public and industry, and providing information management solutions to other federal agencies. NTIS accomplishes this without appropriated federal funding.

Evidence that we are succeeding in this mission includes:

- NTIS maintains a permanent, integrated database of more than 3 million federal S&T documents.
- Having these documents in one place, with a standardized set of meta data, means a much larger percentage of those documents are discoverable by serious academic researchers than would otherwise be the case, thus leveraging not wasting taxpayer dollars.
- A recent GAO study found that depending on the topic of interest, up to 45 percent of our collection is exclusively available from NTIS.

Our primary mission is collection of technical reports on federally funded research. However, we also have collected reports on other subjects such as those issued by your office. Responding to your request, as of April 3, the six reports you cite have been made available electronically free-of-charge to the public. The public has not requested any of these reports to date, so no money has been collected for their dissemination or printing.

NTIS recognizes that we all live in a search-engine-enabled world. With changing technology, we must change as well. We are actively responding to OMB's 2013 memorandum and other mandates for increased public access to federal scientific results and data.

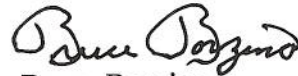
In particular, we are:

- developing better ways to aggregate S&T documents using standardized meta data;

- creating strategies for enabling searches specifically for *data* linked to technical reports; and
- designing a plan for using web analytics and other metrics to demonstrate the value of federally funded research.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you or your staff. Please contact Jim Schufreider, Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the National Institute of Standards and Technology at 301-975-5675 should you wish additional information or have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Borzino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bruce Borzino
Director