

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4606

COMMITTEES:

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BUDGET

INTELLIGENCE

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

September 14, 2016

The Honorable Stephen G. Burns  
Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Chairman Burns,

On May 9, 2014 President Obama signed into law the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act of 2014 (Pub.L. 113-101). The DATA Act presents both challenges and opportunities for your agency, and when fully implemented will create transparency for federal funds, set government-wide financial data standards, reduce reporting requirements of federal award recipients, and improve overall data quality. The efforts of each agency are essential to achieving the aims of this law. As I introduced this law in Congress, I remain strongly committed to robust oversight of DATA Act implementation and to ensuring that federal agencies are able to fully implement this crucial law.

On March 31 of this year, I wrote to all agencies, including yours, asking that the implementation of the DATA Act be prioritized, and requesting information on the challenges faced. I was appreciative of the time taken to respond, and was heartened that many agencies appear to be harnessing the potential of the DATA Act. At the same time, I have heard several common challenges. In particular, multiple agencies have highlighted both resource constraints and issues related to the use of legacy financial management systems that will require some agencies to bear greater costs or update their systems in order to implement the law.

One additional challenge cited by multiple agencies was the delay in receiving government-wide guidance and the final technical schema from OMB and Treasury, which is essential to implementing the law in a timely and effective fashion. As you are aware, the Administration finalized the DATA Act Information Model Schema on May 3rd, and provided additional implementation guidance. This was a critical step forward.

My understanding is that in June 2016, agencies were asked to resubmit their updated implementation plans based on the new OMB and Treasury guidance, since those initial plans had been submitted in September 2015, well before the guidance was final. I thus respectfully request that you share your agency's resubmitted plan with me, in addition to any new resource- or other challenges your agency has identified to date, on the basis of this new guidance.

If I can be of assistance in addressing implementation challenges at your agency, please contact Rafi Martina on my staff at 202-224-2023 or [Rafi.Martina@warner.senate.gov](mailto:Rafi.Martina@warner.senate.gov). Thank you again for your efforts to prioritize the implementation of the DATA Act and to fully leverage the potential of this exciting opportunity to transform federal spending and governance.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized blue letter 'A' that serves as a signature or placeholder for the sender's name.

Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator

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**From:** "Martina, Rafi (Warner)" <[Rafi\\_Martina@warner.senate.gov](mailto:Rafi_Martina@warner.senate.gov)>

**Subject:** [External\_Sender] Senator Warner's Letter to Your Agency Regarding DATA Act Implementation

**Date:** 16 September 2016 15:24

**To:** "Decker, David" <[David.Decker@nrc.gov](mailto:David.Decker@nrc.gov)>

**Cc:** "Arnowitz, Charlie (Warner)" <[Charlie\\_Arnowitz@warner.senate.gov](mailto:Charlie_Arnowitz@warner.senate.gov)>

Attached please find Senator Warner's letter to your agency concerning implementation of the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act of 2014 (Pub.L. 113-101). Senator Warner respectfully requests that you share your agency's resubmitted plan, in addition to any new resource- or other challenges your agency has identified to date, on the basis of the new guidance from Treasury and OMB.

Senator Warner had originally sent a letter to your agency in early April, prior to finalization of data standards and additional guidance; this letter represents a follow-up, given subsequent efforts by Treasury and OMB.

A copy of this letter was mailed to your agency on September 14, 2016. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

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