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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 11, 2003

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BORDER SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
CYBER SECURITY, SCIENCE, AND  
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Dear Colleague:

### **CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING REAL-LIFE ABUSES OF THE CURRENT CLASS ACTION SYSTEM:**

- In a class action suit against Cheerios over a food additive, with no evidence of injury to any consumers, lawyers were paid nearly \$2 million in fees, or approximately \$2,000 per hour. Meanwhile, consumers in the lawsuit received coupons for a free box of cereal.
- Consumers were awarded 33-cent checks in a class action settlement with Chase Manhattan bank, while attorneys in the case walked away with \$4 million in fees. The real zinger is that class members had to use a 34-cent stamp to mail in the response to claim their award!
- *Scott v. Blockbuster Inc.* – Customers who alleged that they were charged excessive late fees by Blockbuster will receive \$1 dollar coupons for rentals – at the same time, their attorneys will divide up a \$9.25 million fee award.
- An infamous Mississippi asbestos settlement awarded class members from Mississippi as much as 18 times more than class members from other states.

**THESE ABUSES ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND.**

**VOTE YES ON H.R. 1115, THE CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS  
ACT, AND CLOSE THE LOOPHOLES THAT ALLOW THESE  
HORRIBLE ABUSES OF OUR COURT SYSTEM.**

Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress