EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

October 8, 1999

THE DIRECTOR

The Honorable Dan Burton
Chairman, Committee on Government
Reform and Oversight
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6143

Dear Chairman Burton:

Thank you for your letter of September 21, 1999, expressing your interest in the implementation of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act and the release of commercial activity inventories to the public. We agree that the FAIR Act can serve as an effective tool in the management of the Federal Government's commercial activities.

Section 2 (c) of the FAIR Act provides that upon completion of the OMB review and consultation process, the agency head shall promptly transmit a copy of the list to the Congress and make the list available to the public. The Act goes on to require OMB to issue a notice in the Federal Register that the list is available. The way in which the agencies make those lists available to the public has been left to the discretion of the agency head. OMB's Federal Register notice will provide a single point of contact, with telephone number, for each agency. The FAIR Act challenge and appeal process does not begin until notice is published in the Federal Register.

To minimize the administrative burden and to encourage the agencies to incorporate their inventories into their management systems, we consciously tried to preserve agency flexibility in the way they chose to submit their inventories. As a result, agency submissions reflect a number of different formats and mediums, often depending on the size of the inventory itself. Following your suggestion, we can and will encourage agencies to place their inventories on the Web. There also may be other, more efficient ways for the agency to make the inventory available to the public.

Your interest in this issue is appreciated. I look forward to working with you and your staff as we implement the FAIR Act and as we prepare guidance for next year's submissions.

Sincerely,

Jacob J. Lew
Director