

FRED THOMPSON, TENNESSEE, CHAIRMAN

FT:pmSincerely,

WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR., DELAWARE
TED STEVENS, ALASKA
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
PETE V. DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
THAD COCHRAN, MISSISSIPPI
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
JUDD GREGG, NEW HAMPSHIRE

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
ROBERT G. TORRELLI, NEW JERSEY
MAX CLELAND, GEORGIA
JOHN EDWARDS, NORTH CAROLINA

HANNAH S. SISTARE, STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL
JOYCE A. RECHMCHAFFEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2000

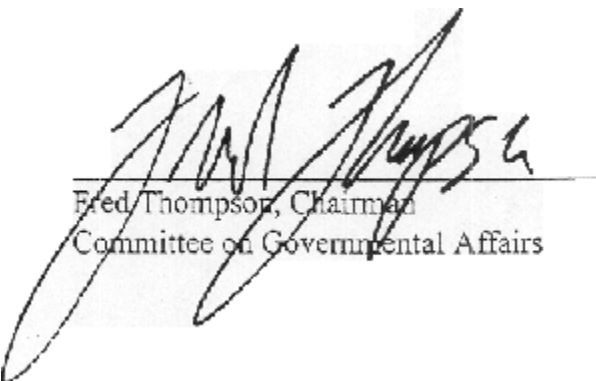
The Honorable David A Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
441 G St NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Walker

Concerns have been raised that some federal agencies are using "cookies" on government Web sites, and that the use of these information gathering devices may violate agency policy as well as the Privacy Act. I would like to request that you investigate whether and how agencies are using these information gathering devices, and whether their use violates the Privacy Act and other applicable standards and White House guidance.

The issue of citizens' privacy has become an increasingly important issue in the Congress. Accordingly, I would appreciate a prompt response on this issue, and no later than September 15, 2000. I look forward to working with you. For more information, please contact Paul Noe, Senior Counsel on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, at 224-4751.

Sincerely,



Fred Thompson, Chairman
Committee on Governmental Affairs