



Usability Professionals' Association

May 5, 2006

Representative Candice Miller
Chair, House Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs
B-373 B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: The Regulation in Plain Language Act of 2006 [HR 4809]

Dear Madam Chair:

The Usability Professionals' Association (UPA) wishes to express its support for plain language.

The UPA was founded in 1991 by people working to improve the design of technology: software, services, and other products. Our members helped design the first websites to be used by the general public, and early on recognized the need for clarity, understandability, and unambiguous language as a critical aspect of a good user experience.

We believe that the principles of plain language, language that is clear and readily understandable to the intended reader, are as important in the public sector as they are in private industry. The use of plain language can improve the civic experience for all citizens, no matter how they interact with their government.

It is for this reason that we believe the requirements in the Regulation in Plain Language Act of 2006 [HR 4809] would be major benefit to the operation of government by enhancing the ability of both business and citizens to comply with regulations and to obtain needed services.

We support the views expressed in the testimony of Dr. Annetta Cheek, Professor Joseph Kimble, Professor Thomas Cooley, and Mr. Todd McCracken in your March 1 hearing.

We encourage the Subcommittee to take HR 4809 under serious consideration and expeditiously produce a bill for review by the full House.

Thank you for your promotion of plain language in the Government.

Very truly yours,

Thyra Rauch, President

and the UPA Board of Directors

Nigel Bevan, Kerrie Green, Lyle Kantrovich, David Mitropoulos-Rundus, Peter Picone, Whitney Quesenberg, Elizabeth Rosenzweig, Paul Sherman, Silvia Zimmermann

promoting usability concepts and techniques worldwide



140 North Bloomingdale Road
Bloomingdale, IL 60108-1017

Phone 630-980-4997
Fax 630-351-8490

www.usabilityprofessionals.org
office@usabilityprofessionals.org