

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert Brady
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Lundgren
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady & Ranking Member Lundgren:

We urge you to add the Apple iPhone to the US House of Representatives Chief Administrative Officer's list of approved handheld devices for official use on the House Network for Members and staff.

The iPhone is one of the most technologically advanced devices on the market. Often called the gold standard for smart phones, the iPhone provides the Internet, multiple calendar functions, Microsoft documents and editing capabilities as well as a plethora of applications, at the fingertip of the Member. Since Members rarely have time for desktop communication, the iPhone is imperative for better communication and productivity while on the go.

We have highlighted some of the benefits of iPhones:

- Calendar – Provides greater clarity in the layout of separate calendars. Members need a better solution when they must schedule multiple committee assignments, constituent meetings, Congressional events and their personal appointments.
- Visual Voicemail – this feature would allow Members to view their messages (who, when and what) at moments when they are unable to listen to the messages.
- Built-in VPN functionality that works with the current House VPN.
- Much wider variety of useful applications, ie. news, weather, etc
- Better internet browsing – The iPhone displays the web page as it would appear on a desktop.
- Visibility - Bigger screen for improved reading of documents.
- Usage – Much better touch screen than the BlackBerry Storm
- Full support for Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and PDF documents.
- International support - it will work in other countries and it supports multiple languages.

The corporate world has been supporting the iPhone (with remote wipe/locks from a central location) for two years now and there are no known security problems that have caused data to be compromised. The iPhone is also able to fully integrate with Microsoft Exchange and allows for the use of desktop functions on a handheld.

With a strong security track record and a host of attractive features that will make Members and staff more productive, the iPhone should be available as choice for an official handheld device. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta (OH-05)
Member of Congress



Rob Wittman (VA-01)
Member of Congress



John Culberson (TX-07)
Member of Congress



Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (CA-25)
Member of Congress