

35 Stanhope St., Apt. 3
Brooklyn, NY 11221

October 8, 2008

Senator Charles E. Schumer
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

VIA FAX: +1 (202) 228-3027

Dear Senator Schumer:

I write today to urge you to support the **Travelers' Privacy Protection Act of 2008, S.3612**. This bill, which is sponsored by Senator Feingold, would prevent the Department of Homeland Security from seizing the laptops and other personal electronics of international travelers unless there is probable cause to suspect the traveler of some crime.

Under current DHS policy, anyone who travels internationally and then re-enters the US can have his or her laptop searched and then seized without any reason being given. This represents a huge invasion of privacy. Additionally, I often help run conferences which attract speakers and attendees from a variety of countries. DHS policies such as the one addressed by this bill often serve to discourage foreign visitors from coming to the US and to our conferences. This not only reduces the number of attendees that we are able to attract but also cuts down on the opportunities for even our US attendees to exchange ideas with people from different backgrounds.

Thus, I hope you will support limiting searches and seizures to those actually suspected of committing crimes by supporting S.3612.

I await hearing your response on this issue, though I must note that I was disappointed to learn from your staffer on the phone that you only respond to comments sent to you by fax. Faxes are an almost obsolete technology, and it is rather absurd for your office to limit serious consideration and response of constituents' comments only to those of us who can somehow manage to send a fax.

Sincerely,

Michael Castleman