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July 14, 2009

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration  
305 Russell Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Fax: 202-224-1912

Dear Senator Schumer:

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) strongly supports "The Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment Act, (S. 1415) that requires states to provide ballots via the internet or facsimile. The legislation also addresses problems that military and overseas voters face in registering to vote from outside the U.S., bars states from rejecting military ballots for lack of a "notary" signature, and requires that all states provide military voters with ballots no later than 45 days prior to the election, to ensure adequate time to complete and return them. The bill would in most cases also provide for a 10-day grace period for ballots to be received after election day if post-marked on time.

The Association strongly supports improved military overseas voter participation and improved military mail processing in Federal elections of overseas ballots, and FRA stands ready to provide assistance in advancing this legislation.

The FRA point of contact is John Davis, FRA's Director of Legislative Programs, at the above numbers or (john@fra.org).

Sincerely,

JOSEPH L. BARNES  
National Executive Director

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