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Data Transparency Coalition Praises President Obama's Open Data Policy

Executive Order will Improve the Business of Government While Creating Skilled Tech Jobs; Coalition Will Pursue Implementing Legislation

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 9, 2013) – The Data Transparency Coalition, the only trade association unifying the technology industry in support of federal data reform, today applauded President Obama for issuing an executive order and accompanying policy on open data. The new Open Data Policy establishes a landmark definition for open data and requires that, going forward, data generated by the government data be made available in open, machine-readable formats. The coalition – whose members include Teradata Corporation, RR Donnelly, and other established companies and start-ups that are innovators in big data – says the Open Data Policy will dramatically improve government efficiency and help grow the economy by creating opportunities and jobs.

"The value of open data goes far beyond public transparency," said Hudson Hollister, executive director of the Data Transparency Coalition. "This executive order and accompanying Open Data Policy will cut compliance costs by allowing it the tech industry to automate reporting and compliance processes that are currently manual. Spending and programs will become more efficient because big data analytics, the most effective means of identifying waste and fraud, can be deployed once data standards are imposed. Even our capital markets will benefit because public regulatory filings converted into open data will become a more accessible source of actionable information for investors. Standards like those required by the Open Data Policy will connect big government to big data."

Hollister continued, "Open data also opens tremendous opportunities for the tech industry. Entrepreneurs and innovators will build the new automations, analytics, and delivery systems and build their businesses in the process. We commend President Obama for directing the government to pursue open data throughout all its systems. The road will be long, but this policy is a giant step.

"By defining open data, the Open Data Policy also allows us to see what reforms must be made to the government's current practices. Unfortunately, federal spending data – the government's most important public data – flunks all seven areas of the Administration's definition. That's why we need Congress to re-introduce and pass the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, which would require the government to open up spending data."

The House Oversight Committee will hold DATA Demo Day May 16 on Capitol Hill, where more than 20 tech companies will give a preview of how their products could help the government police its own spending *if* spending data were made fully open, as the DATA Act would require. The Oversight Committee has invited members of the media to attend and RSVP to ali.ahmad@mail.house.gov.

About the Data Transparency Coalition

The Data Transparency Coalition is the only trade association that advocates for data reform in the U.S. government. The Coalition brings together technology companies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to support policies that require federal agencies to publish their data online, using standardized, machine-readable, nonproprietary data standards. The coalition is steered by a board of advisors. Members include large companies such as Teradata Corporation and RR Donnelley and smaller start-ups such as Level One Technologies and BrightScope. For more information, visit http://datacoalition.org/.

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