

# *United States Senate*

COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING PRACTICES  
AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

August 5, 1977

Honorable Harold M. Williams  
Chairman  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
500 North Capitol Street  
Washington, D. C. 20549

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, I was a principal instigator in arranging the passage of the Government in the Sunshine Act (P.L. 94-409). Now that the Act has become law, I believe sufficient time has passed for us to make a review of how that law has been translated into administrative procedure, what benefit the legislation has been to the agencies involved, and what problems have been incurred as a result of its existence.

Accordingly, I intend to hold oversight hearings on the topic in late September. The hearings will be before the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Practices and Open Government, of which I am Chairman. To assist the subcommittee in preparing for these hearings, I would request your agency to provide us the following information:

1. a copy of your agency's most current regulations covering the Act's requirements;
2. a copy of the agenda for each meeting which was closed under any of the Act's exemption provisions;
3. a copy of each General Counsel's certification, stating the particulars as to why the meeting was to be held in executive session;
4. a statement concerning what procedures are followed to ensure the general public is aware of impending meetings.

In addition, I would appreciate receiving your comments and views on how the Act has affected your agency, and what recommendations you might have which would further the principles of the legislation. To ensure that your views can be fully reviewed in advance of the hearings, I would ask that your comments and the other material requested be received at the subcommittee

Honorable Harold M. Williams

Page Two

August 5, 1977

no later than Thursday, September 2, 1977. If further information or assistance is required, please call Mr. Peter Roman of the subcommittee on 224-0211.

Sincerely,

LAWTON CHILES  
Chairman

LC/rda