Cornell e-Rulemaking Initiative (CeRI) Partners with U.S. Department of Transportation for Open Government

CeRI Regulation Room: an Open Government "Flagship Initiative" Supporting Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration

Ithaca, NY—Today, the Cornell e-Rulemaking Initiative (CeRI) announced a partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation to open the federal regulatory process to more effective citizen participation. In concert with Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood’s announcement of a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) proposal to ban texting while driving commercial vehicles, CeRI unveiled Regulation Room: an online public participation environment where citizens can learn about and discuss proposed federal regulations and provide effective feedback to agency decision-makers.

"Regulation Room provides the opportunity for broader, better public participation in federal policymaking. Everyone has the legal right to know about proposed new regulations and give the agency feedback, but few people are aware of their rights and fewer exercise them effectively," said Cornell Law School Professor Cynthia R. Farina. "We are optimistic that Regulation Room will encourage more meaningful public involvement in the regulatory policy process. The Department of Transportation has long been a leader in innovative ways to inform and engage the public, and we are grateful to Secretary LaHood and his team at DOT for collaborating with us on this exciting open government initiative."

"The Cornell e-Rulemaking Initiative is the first project in our innovative and important partnership to increase the breadth and value of public comment in the rulemaking process," said Secretary LaHood. "I thank Cornell University for taking this important step with us toward keeping President Obama's promise of opening government to more effective citizen participation."

CeRI is a multi-disciplinary research group based at Cornell Law School; it brings together faculty and students from law, conflict resolution, computing and information science, and the social sciences. CeRI works with federal agencies who want to find the most effective methods and technologies for transparent, participatory government. While working closely with its agency partners, CeRI remains an independent, neutral and objective advocate for good Government 2.0.