James Jorkasky (left) scrambles among September 19 Energy and Commerce Committee hearing witnesses to inform Dr. Zerhouni about AEVR’s Congressional Briefing Collaboration in Diabetic Retinopathy Research held earlier that day.

“I greatly appreciate your efforts to increase awareness of and support for research on eye diseases and disorders of vision. The efforts of NAEVR/AEVR to highlight both the great need and unparalleled opportunity to develop new or improved treatments for these conditions offer hope to those who are visually impaired.”
—August 24 Dr. Zerhouni commendation letter to James Jorkasky

“NAEVR is confident of the opportunities that the newly created common fund presents for the NEI, especially due to its strong track record of trans-Institute, collaborative research. In that regard, you should be aware that, at a September 13 briefing on the bill, Energy and Commerce staff solely cited NEI research as examples of trans-Institute research potentially supported by the common fund.”
—September 27 James Jorkasky letter to Dr. Zerhouni, upon passage of the House NIH reauthorization bill