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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0549

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM  
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
SUBCOMMITTEE

REGULATORY REFORM  
SUBCOMMITTEE

September 10, 2013

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Cantor:

In recent weeks, concerning reports have been made public about the scope and depth of the National Security Agency's (NSA) surveillance programs and serious legal violations in those programs. In particular, the recent declassification of a 2011 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) ruling has revealed that the Agency unlawfully gathered and held the contents of emails for tens of thousands of Americans between 2008 and 2011. Additionally, there are concerning allegations that officials at the NSA may have misrepresented to the FISC the scope of a collection program conducted under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act.

Prior to earlier votes on the House floor on amendments to limit NSA intelligence gathering programs, members of Congress were given assurances that there would be a substantive legislative review of their scope and function. Now that it has been publicly acknowledged that the communications of Americans were included in the NSA's data collection program, likely violating their Fourth Amendment rights, Congress must respond in a manner that both increases the transparency of the Agency's programs and reinforces the constitutional protections of our citizens.

Now that the House has come back into session, I respectfully request that you move legislation to the floor, including the language of the Amash Amendment that was narrowly defeated on July 26, 2013 during debate on the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, as quickly as possible. Government actions that violate the Constitution cannot be tolerated and

Congress must act to ensure the NSA and the rest of the intelligence community permanently cease such acts and hold the appropriate individuals accountable.

I know we share a commitment to securing the Constitutional rights of the American people and I welcome the opportunity to work with you to resolve the legitimate concerns that have arisen as more is revealed about the conduct and practices employed in these programs. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Darrell Issa', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress

cc: Chairman Bob Goodlatte