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

July 26, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership in honoring our responsibility to protect and defend the American people. As you know, our challenge as elected officials is to preserve Americans' liberties while protecting our national security.

This week, the House of Representatives considered an amendment offered by Representatives Amash and Conyers to H.R. 2397, the Fiscal Year 2014 Defense Appropriations bill. The Amash-Conyers amendment would have limited NSA's ability to collect bulk telecommunications records pursuant to Section 215 of the Patriot Act as codified in Section 501 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA). Although the amendment was defeated 205-217, it is clear that concerns remain about the continued implementation of the program in its current form.

Although some of us voted for and others against the amendment, we all agree that there are lingering questions and concerns about the current 215 collection program. These include:

- Whether the bulk metadata telecommunications collection program sufficiently protects the privacy and civil liberties of Americans.
- Whether the program could be tailored more narrowly to better ensure the protection of privacy and civil liberties.
- Whether the law is being implemented in a manner consistent with Congressional intent.
- How we can ensure greater transparency regarding FISA court operations, decision making, and issuance of orders.
- Whether changes to the current FISA Court structure are needed.

Congress must examine the various national security collection programs and consider amendments to the law. We have been assured that the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board has embarked on a review of the collection programs done pursuant to FISA and the Patriot Act, and has agreed to review various legislative proposals.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

We look forward to working with you and Administration officials to address the concerns outlined above and to explore options which will preserve Americans' privacy and civil liberties while protecting our national security.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader

Steny H. Hoyer
Democratic Whip

James E. Clyburn
Assistant Democratic Leader

Xavier Becerra
Chair, Democratic Caucus

Joseph Crowley
Vice Chair, Democratic Caucus

John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Ranking Member, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Ami Bera
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

William L. Enyart
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Colleen W. Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Daniel B. Maffei
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress

James A. Himes
Member of Congress

Jim Matheson
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Ann M. Kuster
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

John Lewis
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

George Miller
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

William L. Owens
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Pedro R. Piersluisi
Member of Congress

John F. Tierney
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

John A. Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress

Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

Jose E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Hakeem S. Jeffries
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

Steven A. Horsford
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Pete P. Gallego
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Theodore E. Deutch
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Denny Heck
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

Alan S. Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Donald J. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

John C. Carney, Jr.
Member of Congress

Donna M. Christensen
Member of Congress

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

Matthew A. Cartwright
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Ron Barber
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

William R. Keating
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sanchez
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress

John Barrow
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER