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ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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March 24, 2017

Dear Attorney General Sessions, Director Coats, Director Comey, Admiral Rogers and Director Pompeo:

The American people's trust in the intelligence community and the surveillance programs authorized by law is vital to our national security. These programs prevent terrorist attacks and save American lives.

The unlawful dissemination of classified information undercuts the integrity of these programs and jeopardizes their continued existence. This and other unauthorized and felonious disclosures – past and present – are increasingly casting a pall over not only our country's intelligence apparatus but also the American people's trust in the efficacy and integrity of the intelligence community and the programs utilized.

While the House and Senate Intelligence Committees do conduct oversight of the intelligence community, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees have primary oversight of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), the important national security statute at the center of many of the recent allegations. As you know, the most important foreign intelligence tool in our nation's anti-terrorism arsenal, Section 702 of FISA ("Section 702"), is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2017. The fact is Section 702 authorizes surveillance that reportedly encompasses more than a quarter of all NSA surveillance, and it has been used on multiple occasions to detect and prevent potentially calamitous terrorist plots against our country. Because of the aforementioned unauthorized disclosures, many Members of Congress are distrustful of these capabilities and fear the consequences if wrongdoers within the government continue to disseminate information feloniously.

Our Committee seeks several results with this letter. First, we ask you to openly dispel, if inaccurate or false, accusations of widespread illegal surveillance. Second, we encourage you to publicly describe the value of Section 702 in thwarting terrorist plots. Members of Congress and the public need to fully understand the utility of the program as well as the procedures in place to ensure Section 702 operates within the confines of the law and the Constitution. Finally, we ask you brief us on any efforts made by your agencies to identify those who feloniously disseminate classified or otherwise legally protected information and bring them to justice. "Unnamed

government sources” leaking confidential information, whether the information is accurate or not, is detrimental to our national security and cannot be tolerated. Congress, as the People’s representative body, has the responsibility to ensure proper measures are being taken to prevent any unauthorized disclosures of classified information.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bob Goodlatte", written over a horizontal line.

Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Trey Gowdy", written over a horizontal line.

Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
Homeland Security, & Investigations

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Louie Gohmert", written over a horizontal line.

Louie Gohmert
Vice-Chairman
Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism,
Homeland Security, & Investigations