

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you work to craft appropriations legislation to fund the federal government in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, we respectfully request that you include bipartisan privacy-focused amendment language that overwhelmingly passed the House earlier this year.

Though there are many divergent views among Republicans and Democrats on a variety of spending matters, the need to safeguard the Constitution's Fourth Amendment and protect Americans' rights is an issue on which there is far-reaching consensus. Republican and Democratic members of Congress – and, more importantly, the constituents we all represent – overwhelmingly agree that tax dollars should not be used to fund the warrantless surveillance of American citizens.

Several amendments to prevent federal funds from being used in this manner passed the House with broad, bipartisan support earlier this year as part of H.R. 2578, the Commerce, Justice Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016, and H.R. 2685, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016. We strongly encourage you to include the language of each of these amendments in any government funding legislation for FY 2016.

H.R. 2578

- H. Amdt. 311, sponsored by Representatives Ted Poe (R-TX), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Thomas Massie (R-KY), John Conyers (D-MI), Justin Amash (R-MI), Blake Farenthold (R-TX), Jared Polis (D-CO), Ted Lieu (D-CA), and Raúl Labrador (R-ID). Prohibits the Department of Justice (DOJ) or Federal Bureau of Investigation from using federal funds to require technology companies to weaken the security of their products for the purpose of government surveillance. This amendment passed by voice vote.

- H. Amdt. 312, sponsored by Representatives Jared Polis (D-CO), Morgan Griffith (R-VA), David Schweikert (R-AZ), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and Blake Farenthold (R-TX). Prohibits the DOJ from using federal funds to engage in warrantless bulk data collection (a practice the department says it is has suspended). This amendment passed by voice vote.
- H. Amdt. 342, sponsored by Representatives Thomas Massie (R-KY), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Ted Poe (R-TX). Prohibits the National Institute of Standards and Technology from using federal funds to consult with the National Security Agency or the Central Intelligence Agency for the purpose of setting deliberately weak cryptographic standards that can be used to enable data collection. This amendment passed by a recorded vote of 383-43.
- H. Amdt. 344, sponsored by Representative Darrell Issa (R-CA). Prohibits federal funds from being used within the United States to warrantlessly operate or disseminate a cell site simulator or IMSI catcher, which can be used to collect information about individuals' locations and telephone communications. This amendment passed by voice vote.

H.R.2685

- H. Amdt. 503, sponsored by Representatives Thomas Massie (R-KY), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), John Conyers (D-MI), Ted Poe (R-TX), Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), Jim Jordan (R-OH), Beto O'Rourke (D-TX), Justin Amash (R-MI), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Doug Collins (R-GA), Suzan DelBene (D-WA), Raúl Labrador (R-ID), Mark Pocan (D-WI), Blake Farenthold (R-TX), Ted Lieu (D-CA), and Mark Sanford (R-SC). Limits the use of federal funds for warrantless searches for information pertaining to U.S. citizens collected pursuant to Sec. 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. This amendment passed by a recorded vote of 255-174.

The inclusion of these five amendments in any government funding legislation will go a long way toward ending ongoing government abuses of Americans' civil liberties and help restore Americans' privacy rights to the standards set out in the Constitution's Fourth Amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to partnering with you in these efforts to protect millions of innocent Americans from unwarranted government surveillance.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



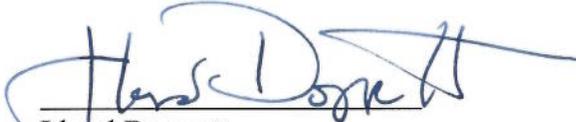
Justin Amash
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



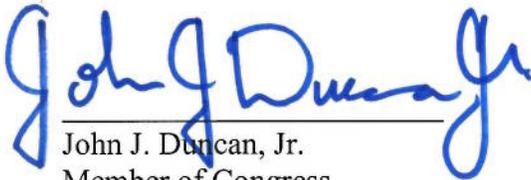
John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



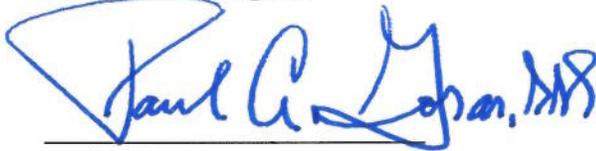
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



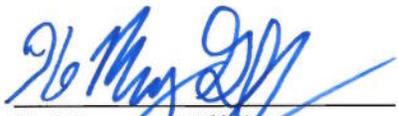
Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress



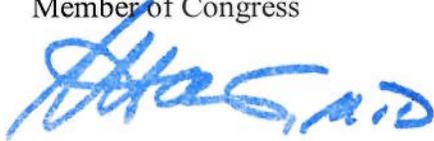
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



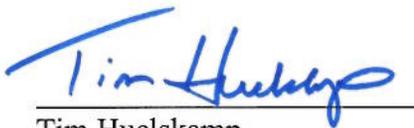
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



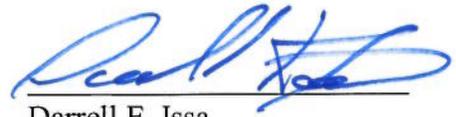
Andy Harris
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress



Darrell E. Issa
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Walter B. Jones, Jr.
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Cynthia M. Lummis
Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress

Thomas Massie
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows
Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

Mick Mulvaney SC-5
Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

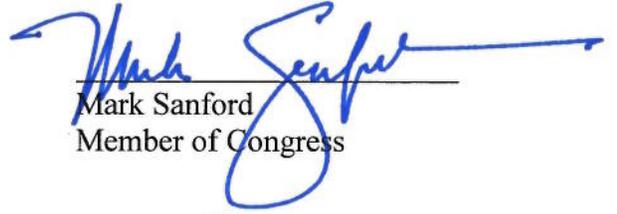
Mark Pocan
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Mark Sanford
Member of Congress



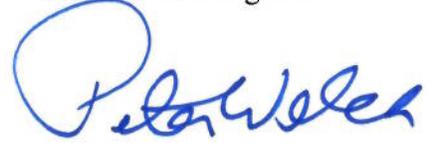
David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Marlin A. Stutzman
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
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Peter Welch
Member of Congress