

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

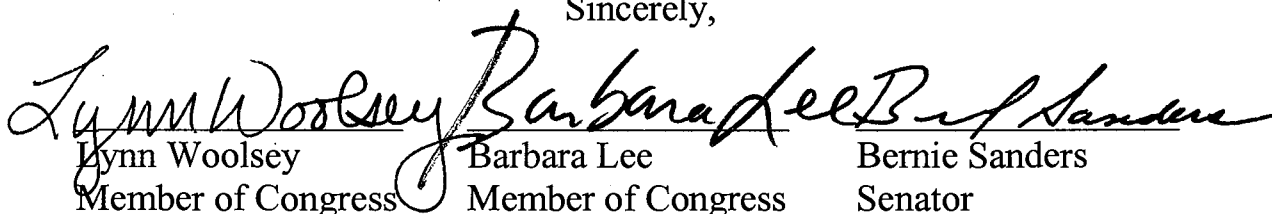
Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to inform you that we will not support legislation reauthorizing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that grants retroactive legal immunity to telecommunications companies that cooperated with your Administration's wiretapping program in violation of the Constitution and applicable federal law.

Corporations that handed over their customers' records without a valid court order or other legal instrument authorized by statute undermined fundamental civil protections and privacy rights of Americans. Congress as a whole was kept in the dark for years about these activities, and to this day, the overwhelming majority of House Members and Senators have never been briefed on these activities. We cannot be asked to immunize these actions before we know the full extent of what occurred. Retroactive immunity sets a dangerous precedent by placing companies that are legally required to respond only to legitimate government requests for assistance based on the issuance of valid legal instruments above the law.

It is our responsibility to protect innocent Americans who expect that their communications will remain private except in circumstances provided under the law. The courts should not be prevented from ruling on the legality of the actions taken by these companies, and where appropriate, hold them accountable.

Sincerely,


Lynn Woolsey Barbara Lee Bernie Sanders
Member of Congress Member of Congress Senator

Rosa D. DeLauro

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson-Lee

Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress

Hank Johnson

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Bob Filner

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

Peter Welch

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Dennis J. Kucinich

Dennis Kucinich
Member of Congress

Linda J. Sánchez

Linda Sánchez
Member of Congress

Pete Stark

Fortney Pete Stark
Member of Congress

James McGovern

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Jesse Jackson, Jr.

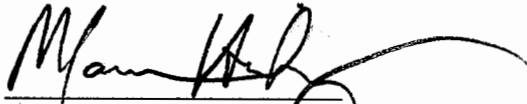
Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott

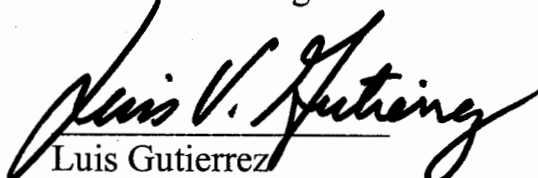
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress


Betty McCollum

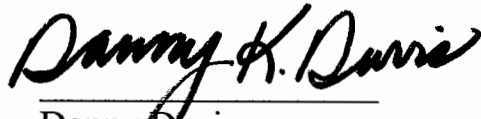
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Maurice Hinchey
Member of Congress



Donald Payne
Member of Congress

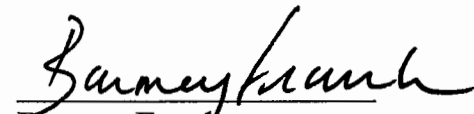

Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

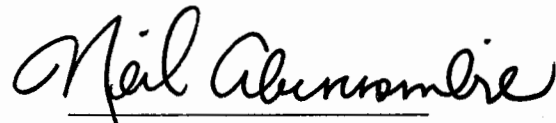

Danny Davis
Member of Congress


Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress


Phil Hare
Member of Congress


Barney Frank
Member of Congress


Melvin Watt
Member of Congress


Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress