

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2016

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable James Clapper
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Attorney General Lynch and Director Clapper,

On October 4, 2016, Reuters published an article indicating that Yahoo had scanned all of its incoming email traffic on behalf of the U.S. government to search for and store all messages containing “a set of characters.” On October 5, The New York Times published an article citing anonymous government officials who attested to material details of the Reuters story and indicated which legal authority was used for the described program. Reuters then issued conflicting reports about which legal authority was used, and other outlets began offering materially differing descriptions of the technical mechanism used to conduct the searches.

There is significant confusion regarding the existence and nature of the program described by these reports and the legal questions implicated by the accuracy of specific details.

As legislators, it is our responsibility to have accurate information about the intelligence activities conducted by the federal government. Accordingly, we request information and a briefing as soon as possible for all members of Congress to resolve the issues raised by these reports.

Sincerely,



Justin Amash (MI-03)
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu (CA-33)
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
The Honorable John Conyers
The Honorable Devin Nunes
The Honorable Adam Schiff

Thomas Massie

Thomas Massie (KY-04)
Member of Congress

Raúl R. Labrador

Raúl R. Labrador (ID-01)
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones

Walter Jones (NC-03)
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock

Tom McClintock (CA-04)
Member of Congress

Joe Barton

Joe Barton (TX-06)
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert

Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks

Mo Brooks (AL-05)
Member of Congress

Trey Gowdy

Trey Gowdy (SC-04)
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren

Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith

H. Morgan Griffith (VA-09)
Member of Congress

Rod Blum

Rod Blum (IA-01)
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar

Paul Gosar (AZ-04)
Member of Congress

Ted Poe

Ted Poe (TX-02)
Member of Congress

Andy Harris

Andy Harris (MD-01)
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber

Randy Weber (TX-14)
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer

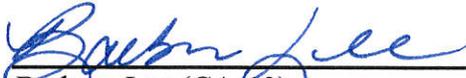
Tom Emmer (MN-06)
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp

Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)
Member of Congress

Mark Sanford

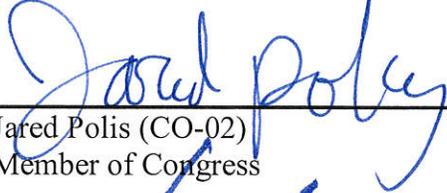
Mark Sanford (SC-01)
Member of Congress



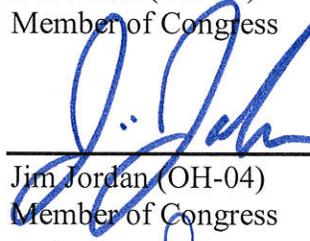
Barbara Lee (CA-13)
Member of Congress



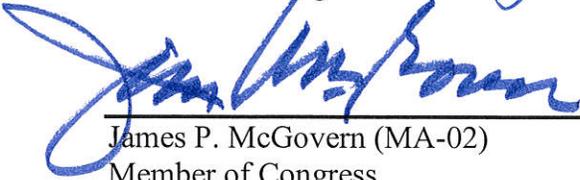
Dave Brat (VA-07)
Member of Congress



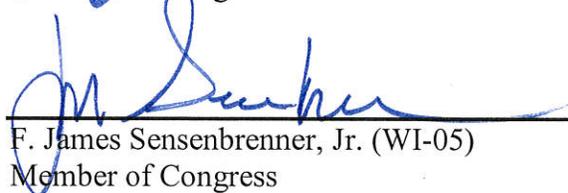
Jared Polis (CO-02)
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan (OH-04)
Member of Congress



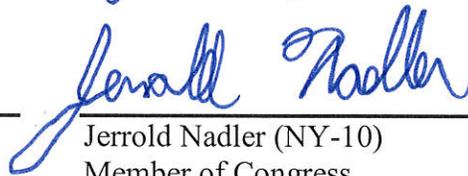
James P. McGovern (MA-02)
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (WI-05)
Member of Congress



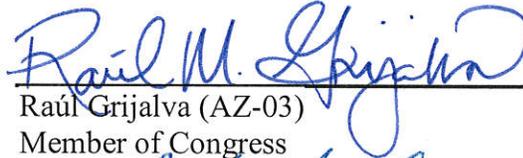
Jason Chaffetz (UT-03)
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler (NY-10)
Member of Congress



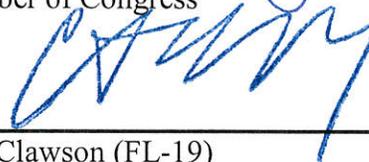
Dan Kildee (MI-05)
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03)
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48)
Member of Congress



Curt Clawson (FL-19)
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell (MI-12)
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal (CA-47)
Member of Congress



Cynthia M. Lummis (WY-At Large)
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon (AZ-05)
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke (MT-At Large)
Member of Congress



Michael M. Honda (CA-17)
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02)
Member of Congress

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards (MD-04)
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett

Lloyd Doggett (TX-35)
Member of Congress

Scott Garrett

Scott Garrett (NJ-05)
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan

Jeff Duncan (SC-03)
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen (TN-09)
Member of Congress

Darrell Issa

Darrell Issa (CA-49)
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo

Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18)
Member of Congress

John Fleming, M.D.

John Fleming, M.D. (LA-04)
Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene

Suzan K. DelBene (WA-01)
Member of Congress