

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2015

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Amash, Lewis, and House colleagues send letter to Senate *Urge stronger surveillance reforms to protect privacy*

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Justin Amash, Rep. John Lewis, and 58 of their House colleagues sent the following letter to the Senate this morning.

The text of the letter and list of cosigners are attached and below.

May 20, 2015

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
United States Senate

Minority Leader Harry Reid
United States Senate

Chairman Charles Grassley
Senate Judiciary Committee

Chairman Richard Burr
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Ranking Member Patrick Leahy
Senate Judiciary Committee

Vice Chairman Dianne Feinstein
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Dear Senators:

On May 13, 2015, the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015 (H.R. 2048) passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 338 to 88. We, the undersigned representatives, opposed the measure because its reforms do not adequately or appropriately reform surveillance practices or address privacy concerns. Many of our colleagues felt similarly, supporting the bill only out of concern the Senate would be unwilling to engage in more comprehensive reform.

The American people deserve congressional action that secures their constitutional rights. While we recognize the government's legitimate interests in certain surveillance activities intended to protect the United States, these intrusions must be carefully limited and overseen in order to avoid encroaching upon the freedoms they are intended to preserve. The recent decision from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit declaring the government's interpretation of "relevant" unlawful underscores that Congress must do more. We urge you to join us in ensuring the federal government's surveillance practices comport with the U.S. Constitution, are conducted under effective congressional oversight, and are limited to efforts proven effective at safeguarding our country.

Congress has had ample time for debate. We must not kick the can down the road with a short-term reauthorization. Nor will we acquiesce to any effort to weaken this legislation. Indeed, there is strong support for real reform in this chamber, and we hope you will work with us to improve

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the legislation, such as by incorporating the reforms contained in the original USA FREEDOM Act of 2013, which was cosponsored by a bipartisan group of 152 representatives in the House, and the reforms embodied in the Massie-Lofgren amendment, which was overwhelmingly adopted by the House last year.

We look forward to working together to better protect the rights of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Justin Amash (R-MI)
Thomas Massie (R-KY)
Tom McClintock (R-CA)
Jim Jordan (R-OH)
Tim Huelskamp (R-KS)
Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Peter DeFazio (D-OR)
Andy Harris (R-MD)
Dave Brat (R-VA)
Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Walter Jones (R-NC)
Scott DesJarlais (R-TN)
Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
Ted Lieu (D-CA)
Mick Mulvaney (R-SC)
Alan Lowenthal (D-CA)
Chellie Pingree (D-ME)
Mark Meadows (R-NC)
Donna F. Edwards (D-MD)
Louie Gohmert (R-TX)
Barbara Lee (D-CA)
Curt Clawson (R-FL)
Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)
Mark Takano (D-CA)
Alan Grayson (D-FL)
Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI)
Tom Graves (R-GA)
Scott Perry (R-PA)
Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)
Charles B. Rangel (D-NY)

John Lewis (D-GA)
Jared Polis (D-CO)
Raúl Labrador (R-ID)
Paul Gosar (R-AZ)
Jeff Duncan (R-SC)
Diana DeGette (D-CO)
Mark Sanford (R-SC)
Ted Poe (R-TX)
Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Keith Ellison (D-MN)
Scott Garrett (R-NJ)
John Duncan (R-TN)
Rod Blum (R-IA)
Jim McGovern (D-MA)
Richard Nugent (R-FL)
Bill Posey (R-FL)
John Fleming (R-LA)
Michael Honda (D-CA)
Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)
Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA)
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ)
José Serrano (D-NY)
Jody Hice (R-GA)
Michael Capuano (D-MA)
Ted Yoho (R-FL)
Christopher Gibson (R-NY)
David Schweikert (R-AZ)
Phil Roe (R-TN)
Maxine Waters (D-CA)

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