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 (KY-04)
Member of Congress

Walter Jones (NC-03)
Member of Congress

Joe Barton (TX-06)
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks (AL-05)
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren (CA-19)
Member of Congress

Rod Blum (IA-01)
Member of Congress

Ted Poe (TX-02)
Member of Congress

Randy Weber (TX-14)
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp (KS-01)
Member of Congress

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

Tom McClintock (CA-04)
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert (TX-01)
Member of Congress

Trey Gowdy (SC-04)
Member of Congress

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

Paul Gosar (AZ-04)
Member of Congress

Andy Harris (MD-01)
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer (MN-06)
Member of Congress

Mark Sanford (SC-01)
Member of Congress
Barbara Lee (CA-13)  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis (CO-02)  
Member of Congress

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

Jason Chaffetz (UT-03)  
Member of Congress

Dan Kildee (MI-05)  
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher (CA-48)  
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell (MI-12)  
Member of Congress

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

Ryan Zinke (MT-At Large)  
Member of Congress

Dave Brat (VA-07)  
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan (OH-04)  
Member of Congress

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

Jerrold Nadler (NY-10)  
Member of Congress

Raul Grijalva (AZ-03)  
Member of Congress

Curt Clawson (FL-19)  
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal (CA-47)  
Member of Congress

Matt Salmon (AZ-05)  
Member of Congress

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