



One Hundred Ninth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2006

The Honorable Robert Simmons
Chairman
Subcommittee on Intelligence,
Information Sharing, and Terrorism
Risk Assessment

Dear Chairman Simmons:

Thank you again for inviting Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, National Security Agency (NSA) Director Lieutenant General Keith B. Alexander, and Department of Homeland Security Chief Intelligence Officer Charles Allen to the continued hearing yesterday on privacy and the Department's intelligence enterprise.

We share your disappointment that none of the witnesses accepted your invitation, and appreciate your promise to secure their attendance in the near future. The shocking revelation today about the NSA's collection and storing of the phone call records of millions of American citizens only underscores our need to hear from these witnesses as soon as possible. As we both agree, our Subcommittee should closely examine whether the Department of Homeland Security is effectively applying privacy and civil liberties protections as part of its intelligence enterprise in order to avoid precisely this type of situation.

Please keep us informed about your progress in getting the witnesses to a new hearing and let us know how we can help, if at all. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Zoe Lofgren".

Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Intelligence,
Information Sharing, and Terrorism
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cc: Alberto Gonzalez, Attorney General
Lieutenant General Keith B. Alexander
Charles Allen, Chief Intelligence Officer