

December 18, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-221, The US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
S-230, The US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi House  
Minority Leader  
H-204, The US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress,

As civil liberties groups and other organizations advancing the public interest, we write this letter today to **strongly urge you to oppose S. 1631, the FISA Improvements Act**. The FISA Improvements Act does not offer real reform to stop the NSA's mass collection of our communications and communications records. Instead, S. 1631 seeks to entrench some of the worst forms of NSA surveillance into US law and to extend the NSA surveillance programs in unprecedented ways.

If the FISA Improvements Act were to pass, the NSA would continue to collect telephone records of hundreds of millions of Americans not suspected of any crime. This is a violation of Americans' privacy and Constitutional rights. Multiple polls, including a September 2013 Associated Press poll, consistently show a strong majority of the American people opposing such programs.

Furthermore, the bill seeks to permit the NSA to restart the bulk collection of Internet communication records—an extremely invasive, secret program the government attempted under dubious legal ground but abandoned because it wasn't effective.

The NSA mass surveillance programs already sweep up data about millions of people daily. This shadow of surveillance chills freedom of speech, undermines confidence in US Internet companies, and runs afoul of the Constitution.

Please champion real reform to end these programs and oppose S. 1631, which would codify and expand them.

Sincerely,

Access  
Advocacy for Principled Action in Government  
AIDS Policy Project  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Library Association  
Amicus  
Arab American Institute  
Bill of Rights Defense Committee  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School  
Campaign for Liberty  
Center for Democracy and Technology  
Center for Rights

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Charity & Security Network  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)  
The Constitution Project  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
CREDO Mobile  
Cyber Privacy Project  
Defending Dissent Foundation  
Demand Progress  
DownsizeDC.org  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
F2C: Freedom to Connect  
Fight for the Future  
Firedoglake  
Floor64  
Free Press Action Fund  
Free Software Foundation  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
Government Accountability Project  
Greenpeace USA  
Human Rights Watch  
InFo - The Foundation for Innovation and Internet Freedom  
Liberty Coalition  
Media Alliance  
Media Mobilizing Project  
Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition  
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers  
National Coalition Against Censorship  
New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute  
OpenMedia International  
OpenTheGovernment.org  
Participatory Politics Foundation  
PEN American Center  
PolitiHacks  
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Project On Government Oversight  
Public Knowledge  
reddit  
RootsAction.org  
TechFreedom  
The Rutherford Institute  
ThoughtWorks

cc: Members of the House and Senate Judiciary and Intelligence Committees