



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

Dear Mr. Crapo,

Thank you for contacting me with your concerns about the recent controversy surrounding electronic surveillance by the National Security Agency (NSA). I appreciate the opportunity to respond to you on this important issue.

As has been detailed in recent news reports, a whistleblower by the name of Edward Snowden, leaked a series of classified documents to the foreign press, which revealed details of a secret surveillance program being conducted by the NSA. These documents included a secret court order issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that required one of the nation's largest telecommunications companies to turn over millions of its confidential phone records "on an ongoing daily basis." These phone records included those "between the United States and abroad" and those "wholly within the United States." According to the leaked copy of the signed court order, this same telecommunications company was placed under a gag order that barred the company from disclosing details of the program.

In addition, more top secret documents reveal a surveillance program known as "PRISM." The existence of this program was admitted to by the Director of National Intelligence James Clapper shortly after the news media reported on the content of these secret documents. PRISM is a system the NSA uses to gain access to the private communications of users of various internet service providers (ISP). According to press reports, PRISM accomplishes this by enabling "collection directly from the servers" of major ISPs.

The details surrounding these programs are few. But it is clear much more vigorous congressional oversight is necessary and some reforms to the laws that made these secret programs possible are necessary. It is for this reason that I have cosponsored H.R. 2399, the Limiting Internet and Blanket Electronic Review of Telecommunications and Email Act (LIBERT-E Act) introduced by Representatives Conyers (D-MI) and Amash (R-MI). This bill restricts the federal government's ability under the Patriot Act to collect information on Americans who are not connected to an ongoing investigation. In addition, it requires that secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court opinions be made available to Congress and summaries of the opinions be made available to the public.

I believe that with these commonsense reforms we will protect American's constitutional rights and still allow the government to keep our communities safe by targeting, tracking and intercepting terrorists. To do any less than this, would be to ignore the oath that I and others took upon being sworn into office to uphold and defend the Constitution. We must be vigilant and I absolutely intend to fulfill that oath.

H.R. 2399 has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee for further consideration. I thank you for sharing your concerns with me. If you have any further questions about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact my office at 202-225-2635.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Salmon".

Matt Salmon
Member of Congress

*Please do not reply to this email. The mailbox is unattended.
To share your thoughts please visit my webpage.*