January 11, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

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We urge you to protect the security of your citizens, your economy, and your government by
supporting the development and use of secure communications tools and technologies,
rejecting policies that would prevent or undermine the use of strong encryption, and urging
other leaders to do the same.

Encryption tools, technologies, and services are essential to protect against harm and to shield
our digital infrastructure and personal communications from unauthorized access. The ability to
freely develop and use encryption provides the cornerstone for today’s gs, s, lTeeai2 392.4 cm BT 0.0055
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likely have global impact. Encryption and other anonymizing tools and technologies enable
lawyers, journalists, whistleblowers, and organizers to communicate freely across borders and
to work to better their communities. It also assures users of the integrity of their data and
authenticates individuals to companies, governments, and one another.

We encourage you to support the safety and security of users by strengthening the integrity of
communications and systems. All governments should reject laws, policies, or other mandates
or practices, including secret agreements with companies, that limit access to or undermine
encryption and other secure communications tools and technologies.
 Users should have the
option to use
–
 and companies the option to provide
–
 the strongest encryption available,
including end
-to
-end encryption, without fear that governments will compel access to the
content, metadata, or encryption keys without due process and respect for human rights.
Accordingly:

•
 Governments should not ban or otherwise limit user access to encryption in any form or
otherwise prohibit the implementation or use of encryption by grade or type;

•
 Governments should not mandate the design or implementation of “backdoors” or
vulnerabilities into tools, technologies, or services;

•
 Governments should not require that tools, technologies, or services are designed or
developed to allow for third

American Library Association

Amnesty International

ARTICLE 19

Asociación por los Derechos Civiles

Asociatia pentru Tehnologie si Internet (ApTI)

Association for Progressive Communications
(APC)

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights

Australian Privacy Foundation

Benetech

Bill of Rights Defense Committee

Bits of Freedom

Blueprint for Free Speech

Bolo Bhi

the Centre for Communication Governance at
National Law University Delhi

European Digital Rights

Fight for the Future

Föreningen för digitala fri
-
 och rättigheter
(DFRI)

Freedom House

Freedom of the Press Foundation

Freedom to Read Foundation

Ephraim Percy Kenyanito

Eric King

John Kiriakou

Douwe Korff

Ryan Lackey

Susan Landau

Ritu Srivastava

Maria Swietlik

Nabiha Syed

Trevor Timm

Meredith Whittaker