

January 27, 2016

Chairman Robert W. Goodlatte
House Judiciary Committee
United States House of Representatives

Ranking Member John Conyers
House Judiciary Committee
United States House of Representatives

Re: Call for Public Hearings on Reform of FISA Section 702

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers, dP5C DTD@P)67dN11U76W6ZDA(A&1)DcAAE1JA)ES&AIE1

All congressional proceedings should be conducted in accordance with this of transparency and openness. Indeed, no committee should ever hold a classified hearing or briefing, when it can hold all or part of the hearing as an open, unclassified session. The Intelligence, Armed Services, and the Judiciary Committees of both chambers have been able to hold open hearings on matters of national security, deferring only those questions that require classified answers into a closed hearing. This judicious use of closed sessions meets the dual purposes of providing robust oversight and protecting national security.

In the case of Section 702 implementation oversight, a completely closed hearing is unnecessary to provide members with an adequate understanding of how the law is currently implemented by the executive branch and whether that exceeds Congress' original intent.

with friends and colleagues abroad, including human rights activists who rely on secure communications for their safety. The way Section 702 is utilized also affects journalists who interact with confidential sources to report on issues in the public interest, and criminal defendants whose prosecutions may involve the use of evidence derived from intelligence surveillance.

In all of these circumstances and many more, it is up to Congress to ensure that the Administration is not violating the rule of law and the rights we all hold dear.

We urge you to change the designation ~~_____~~ consistent with Congress's constitutional oversight role, long standing congressional practice, and principles of transparency and justice. To the extent that the committee goes forward with the closed hearing, we urge you to fulfill your prior commitment by

