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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

December 23, 2013

Mr. Mark Graham
PO Box 1823
Elk Grove, CA 95759

Dear Mr. Graham:

Thank you for contacting me regarding NSA spying. I appreciate hearing from you.

The Fourth Amendment requires that before the government may seize an individual's private records, it must first show there is probable cause to believe that individual has committed a crime and specify precisely what the government is looking for. The mass surveillance of US citizens by the NSA is a clear violation of the protections the amendment guarantees. This critical tenet of our Bill of Rights has been pushed aside in the name of national security.

It would be easier to catch terrorists without the Fourth Amendment, and easier still if we could station a soldier in every home without the Third Amendment. However, our government was established within a very clear set of Constitutional limits. As we allow the government to chip away at these rights we start down a dangerous path, as Benjamin Franklin warned, trading essential liberty for temporary safety until we end up losing both and deserving neither.

Our liberties enshrined in the Constitution are inviolable, their protection should be the government's primary objective, and I will do everything in my power to ensure the preservation of these freedoms. To that end, I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3361, which would rein in the dragnet data collection by the NSA and increase the transparency of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (FISA) Court.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please visit my website at <http://mcclintock.house.gov> to reach me regarding any issue that concerns you or your family.

Sincerely,



Tom McClintock