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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3303

June 27, 2013

Mr. Mark Graham  
P. O. Box 1823  
Elk Grove, CA 95759

Mr. Graham:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the collection of private information by the National Security Agency. I share your concerns about this serious overreach of the federal government into the lives of our fellow Americans and am working diligently to return privacy back to the American people.

It is my belief that the role of government is to protect and defend its citizens; not to play Big Brother. You may be aware that I have voted against both the reauthorization and extension PATRIOT Act and intend to continue introducing legislation to protect the American people.

In response to the National Security Agency privacy scandal, I introduced H.R. 2399, the bipartisan Limiting Internet and Blanket Electronic Review of Telecommunications and Email Act (or LIBERT-E Act), with several of my colleagues in the House of Representatives. If passed, the bill would narrow the scope of Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act (used by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (FISA) Court as the basis for approving the collection of telephone records of millions of Americans) by requiring the government to provide "specific and articulable facts" to prove that information is related to investigations of foreign intelligence, spying, and terrorism.

Though it is a key function of government to protect its citizens, the privacy of each and every American must be guarded with caution. There is a cancer of government overreaching into private citizens lives that is, sadly, growing. It is paramount that legislators here in Washington put measures into place to keep the government in *its* place.

Thank you for contacting me on this issue. To stay up-to-date with my work in Congress, please visit my website at <http://www.jones.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

  
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress

Thank you  
for your letter.