

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0919

May 15, 2013

Attorney General Eric Holder
Office of the Attorney General
The United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Deputy Attorney General James Cole
Office of the Attorney General
The United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder and Deputy Attorney General Cole:

We are writing to express our strong concern about recent reports that your Department of Justice has been monitoring more than 20 Associated Press phone lines, including home phones and cellphones, without their knowledge and in possible violation of the organization's First Amendment rights. As we understand, Deputy Attorney General Cole authorized this search, and yet rules published by the Justice Department require subpoenas of records of news organizations must be personally approved by the Attorney General.

Given these facts, we request that you appoint a Special Counsel to investigate whether the Justice Department violated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution during their monitoring of the Associated Press. Additionally, we request that you respond fully to the following questions:

- 1) Who within the Justice Department approved, was aware of and supervised the monitoring of the Associated Press phone lines?
- 2) If you are required to approve all subpoenas of records of news organizations, did you review the Justice Department's subpoena of the Associated Press phone lines? If not, why?
- 3) Has a monitoring of this scope and breadth occurred previously at the Justice Department, and if so, what news organizations or reporters were monitored and why?
- 4) How will those responsible be held accountable for their actions?

We believe the American public deserves answers. Freedom of speech and of the press is the very cornerstone upon which our country was founded and should be fiercely protected by our government.

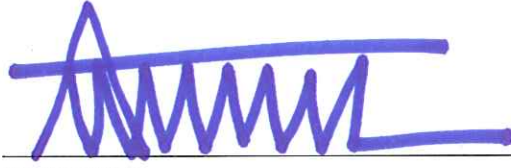
As the top law enforcement branch in the land, we understand you are obligated to investigate national security leaks; however, that does not give your Department carte blanche to launch an unprecedented probe. It has become obvious that once again, the Justice Department has little respect for the very rule of law they are tasked with enforcing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

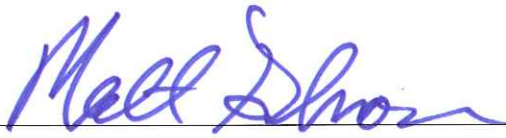
Sincerely,



TREY RADEL
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



TED POE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



MATT SALMON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



DON YOUNG
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



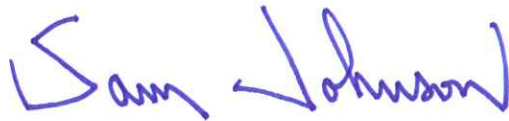
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MEMBER OF CONGRESS



LUKE MESSER
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



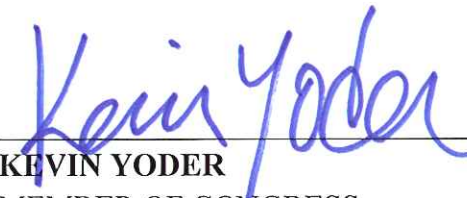
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SAM JOHNSON
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



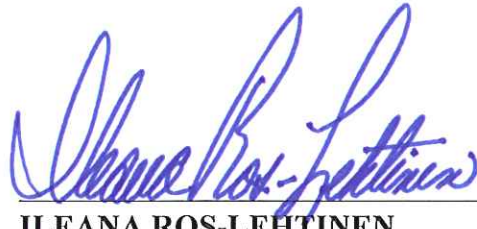
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KEVIN YODER
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STEVE PEARCE
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



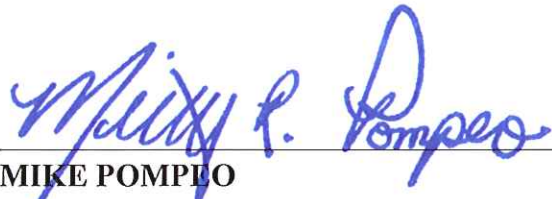
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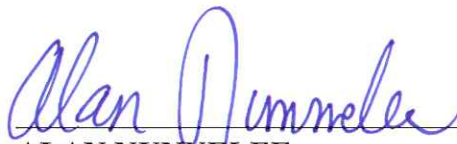
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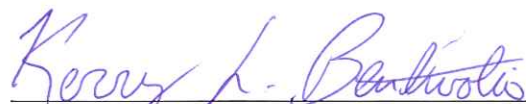
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