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Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

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June 25, 2013

Hon. John Conyers, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
Rayburn House Office Building. 2426
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Justin A. Amash
United States House of Representatives
Cannon House Office Building, 114
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Conyers and Amash,

The Constitution Project (TCP) is pleased to support the bipartisan Limiting Internet and Blanket Electronic Review of Telecommunications and Email Act (LIBERT-E Act), HR 2339, that you introduced in the House last week. The bill would provide two important reforms to government intelligence activities that TCP has long endorsed.

The Constitution Project is a national watchdog group that advances bipartisan, consensus-based solutions to some of the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time. For more than 15 years, we have brought together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political and ideological spectrums to issue reports and recommendations that safeguard our nation's founding charter.

First, the LIBERT-E Act would amend Section 215 of the Patriot Act to provide more robust protections for Americans' constitutional rights and civil liberties. It would tighten the standard for government agents to obtain an order under Section 215, including requiring the government to show "specific and articulable facts" demonstrating that records are relevant to a foreign intelligence investigation. TCP's Liberty and Security Committee supported similar reforms in its 2009 [Statement on Reforming the Patriot Act](#).

Second, the bill would require increased transparency for the legal opinions issued by the FISA Court, calling for an end to secret interpretations of the law. TCP's Liberty and Security Committee made similar recommendations in its 2012 [Report on the FISA Amendments Act of 2008](#). The proposed legislation is consistent with TCP's belief that it is possible to keep the United States safe from terrorist threats while protecting civil liberties.

Both of these provisions would provide much-needed reform to the current law. On behalf of The Constitution Project, thank you very much for your hard work and leadership on these issues.

Sincerely,

Virginia Sloan
President

Sharon Bradford Franklin
Senior Counsel