

## United States Senate

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING  
AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

August 21, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Over the past three months, numerous highly classified documents and materials relating to surveillance conducted by the National Security Agency (NSA), among other things, have been publicly disclosed by newspapers around the world. Following these disclosures, the Administration has, on occasion, provided very useful classified briefings to members of Congress and has declassified certain materials for public consumption.

I am deeply concerned, however, that these briefings and declassification efforts—particularly the classified briefings provided to members of Congress—have generally been limited to simply discussing the facts underlying specific public disclosures and have not provided a fulsome accounting of the totality of surveillance activities conducted by the federal government, and in particular, by the NSA.

As a result, members of Congress regularly read new revelations on the front pages of various newspapers. Even more troubling, members of Congress are left to wonder why the prior briefings provided by the Executive Branch did not cover the material contained in these articles.

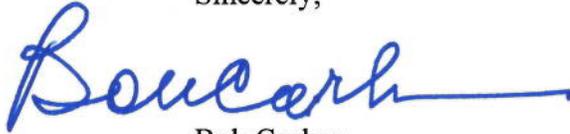
To address this issue, I would like to respectfully request a full briefing led by the Director of the NSA, General Keith Alexander, for all interested members of the Senate when the Senate returns to session in September. This briefing should discuss the totality of NSA operations, including but not limited to those that have already been discussed publicly. Specifically, this briefing should discuss all collections and activities conducted pursuant to statutory and other authorities, including but not limited to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, as modified by the USA PATRIOT Act and the FISA Amendments Act, and Executive Order 12,333.

As I noted in my letter of June 6, sent when the initial disclosures in this area came to light, it is critical that the Administration come to Congress and the American people and explain whether these stories are accurate, what is being collected, what it is used for, and how the privacy and civil liberties of Americans are protected. Specifically, the Administration should explain why these collections and activities are necessary to protect national security, how the collections and activities are conducted, what the collected information is used for, how the

collected information is stored, who has access to it and under what conditions, and whether and what restrictions apply to the government's use of the collected information once it is accessed. In my view, given the scope and scale of the disclosures to date and the significant likelihood of more to come, it is now all the more important that the Administration come to Congress and provide a full accounting of the totality of these efforts.

Please provide a briefing on these matters, whether classified or otherwise, no later than Friday, September 13, 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Boucark", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bob Corker