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May 14, 2013

Eric Holder  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave NW Rm 1145  
Washington, DC 20530-0009

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I write today to express my strong disapproval of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) seizure of phone records from reporters and editors within the Associated Press (AP).

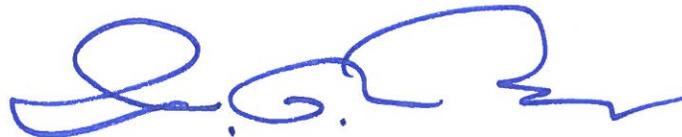
These disturbing actions not only threaten the ability for the AP and other news organizations to conduct their duties to investigate and report the news – but also threaten our constitutional form of government.

The First Amendment to the Constitution clearly outlines the protections for the unfettered freedom of the press within the United States. However, the recent seizure of phone records, coordinated by your agency, chip away at the Constitution, at our democracy, and at our citizens' freedom.

Under your leadership, the DOJ has lost the trust of the American public on a number of occasions. As with the previous incidents, I will once again be calling on my colleagues in the House to initiate a swift and thorough investigation into the actions taken by the DOJ.

In the meantime, I would like a full accounting of why the DOJ pursued these records, and violated the rights of those protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Sincerely,



Dennis Ross  
Member of Congress