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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS &
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT &
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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May 14, 2013

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John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H232 the Capitol
Washington, DC 20515-0001

Dear Speaker John Boehner:

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), and my desire for an immediate investigation in the House of Representatives of this disturbing power grab.

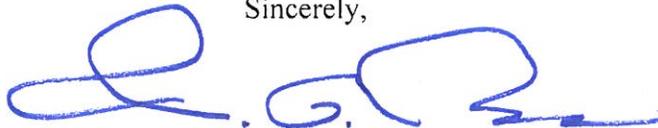
The DOJ recent actions not only threaten the ability for the AP and other news organizations to conduct their duties to investigate and report the news – but also threaten our constitutional form of government.

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 the DOJ, chip away at the Constitution, at our democracy, and at our citizens' freedom.

Under Attorney General Holder, the DOJ has lost the trust of the American public on a number of occasions. Fortunately, under your leadership, the House has acted quickly to investigate this administration's abuse of executive power, and to bring to light the dangerous actions routinely taken by the DOJ.

As the former Chairman of a House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee, I certainly understand the importance of transparency and openness in our federal government. As such, I urge you to call for an immediate investigation into the DOJ violation of citizen's rights protected under the First Amendment of the Constitution.

Sincerely,



Dennis Ross
Member of Congress

CC: Chairman Darrell Issa