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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4326  
February 15, 2008

COMMITTEE:  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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VICE-CHAIRMAN:  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN  
POLICY COMMITTEE

Office of the Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
United States Capitol, H-232

Dear Madam Speaker:

I ask you to immediately bring the House of Representatives back into session to vote on the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, H.R. 3773, as amended by the Senate. In this morning's *Washington Post*, Michael McConnell, Director of National Intelligence wrote the following:

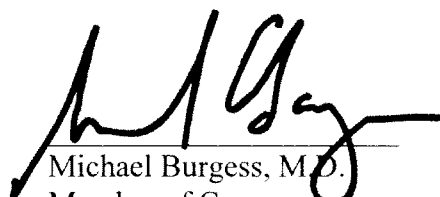
"Some have claimed that expiration of the Protect America Act would not significantly affect our operations. Such claims are not supported by the facts. We are already losing capability due to the failure to address liability protection. Without the act in place, vital programs would be plunged into uncertainty and delay, and capabilities would continue to decline."

We must not let this vital issue of national security become partisan. The American people deserve better. The Senate has acted in a clear bipartisan matter by passing a strong FISA bill by an overwhelming majority. Members of your own caucus have directly indicated to you that they fully support the Senate-passed FISA bill. We must take up this legislation immediately. I have received numerous letters from my constituents over the past week wondering why the Congress is investigating steroids in baseball and bickering about contempt charges based on flimsy evidence while our national security is teetering in the balance.

As I am sure you know, upon completing his tenure as President of the United States, John Quincy Adams returned to the House of Representatives because he believed that the House, above all else, was the branch of the United States government that was closest to the people. In this spirit I strongly urge you to call the House of Representatives back into session immediately so that we may debate and vote on the bipartisan Senate bill that we have before us.

I believe by not calling Congress back to address this issue, it reflects negatively on the competency of the current leadership, diminishes the credibility of the House of Representatives, and places American people in danger. There should not be an expiration date on America's security.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

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