

Attorney General Greg Abbott
Attorney General W.A. Drew Edmondson
Attorney General Troy King
Attorney General Dustin McDaniel
Attorney General Thurbert Baker
Attorney General Steve Carter
Attorney General Doug Gansler
Attorney General Jon Bruning
Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General Patrick Lynch
Attorney General Larry Long
Attorney General Bob McDonnell
Attorney General Darrell McGraw

Attorney General Roy Cooper
Attorney General Bill McCollum
Attorney General Talis Colberg
Attorney General John Suthers
Attorney General Lawrence Wasden
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Attorney General Mike Cox
Attorney General Kelly Ayotte
Attorney General Tom Corbett
Attorney General Henry McMaster
Attorney General Mark Shurtleff
Attorney General Rob McKenna

March 4, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Minority Whip
Washington, DC 20515

Re: FISA Amendments Act of 2007 (S. 2248)

Dear Madam Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Minority Leader Boehner and Minority Whip Blunt:

We urge the House of Representatives to schedule a vote and pass S. 2248, the FISA Amendments Act of 2007. This bipartisan legislation is critical to the national security of the United States. Once passed, S. 2248 will ensure intelligence officials have the ability to collect vitally important information about foreign terrorists operating overseas.

Madam Speaker Pelosi
Majority Leader Hoyer
Minority Leader Boehner
Minority Whip Blunt
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Page 2

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman John D. Rockefeller (D-WV) authored S. 2248 to solve a critical problem that arose when the Protect America Act was allowed to lapse on February 16, 2008. The root of the problem stems from a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act ("FISA") Court order that jeopardizes America's national security efforts. Under that decision, U.S. intelligence agencies must obtain a FISA warrant before initiating surveillance involving suspected foreign terrorists located outside the United States.

The FISA Court's decision hinged on the fact that those entirely foreign communications are frequently routed through telecommunications facilities that happen to be located in the United States. Because modern global communications networks routinely route data through numerous facilities in a myriad of countries, the nation in which the call originates may be completely unrelated to the nation through which that call is ultimately routed.

A bipartisan majority of the United States Senate recently approved S. 2248. But until it is also passed by the House of Representatives, intelligence officials must obtain FISA warrants every time they attempt to monitor suspected terrorists in overseas countries. Passing S. 2248 would ensure our intelligence experts are once again able to conduct real-time surveillance. As you know, prompt access to intelligence data is critical to the ongoing safety and security of our nation.

As Attorneys General, we are our states' chief law enforcement officials and therefore responsible for taking whatever action is necessary to keep our citizens safe. With S. 2248 still pending in the House of Representatives, our national security is in jeopardy. We therefore urge the House of Representatives to schedule a vote and pass the FISA Amendments Act of 2007.

Sincerely,



Honorable Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas



Honorable Roy Cooper
Attorney General of North Carolina



Honorable W.A. Drew Edmondson
Attorney General of Oklahoma



Honorable Bill McCollum
Attorney General of Florida

