

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2015

John O. Brennan
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Director Brennan:

In January 2014, the CIA conducted an unauthorized and unprecedented search of Senate files, including the emails and other files of Senate investigators examining the CIA's past use of torture. The CIA Inspector General stated in a July 2014 report that this search involved "improper Agency access to SSCI files." And a review board that you appointed concluded in December 2014 that this CIA search "resulted in inappropriate access to SSCI work product."

When you were asked publicly about the CIA's search in March 2014, you denied that any improper access had occurred, stating that "As far as the allegations of, you know, CIA hacking into, you know, Senate computers, nothing could be further from the truth. I mean, that's – that's just beyond the – you know, the scope of reason in terms of what we would do." The reports of both the Inspector General and your review board demonstrate that this denial was at odds with the facts.


In June 2014, senior officials from the FBI, NSA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence all testified that it would be inappropriate for their agencies to secretly search Senate files without external authorization. To date, however, there has been no public acknowledgment from you or any other CIA official (outside the Office of Inspector General) that this search was improper, nor even a commitment that the CIA will not conduct such searches in the future. This is entirely unacceptable.

It is vitally important for the American public to have confidence that senior intelligence officials respect US laws and the Constitution, including our democratic system of checks and balances. In our judgment your handling of this matter has undermined that confidence. We call on you to acknowledge that this search was improper, and commit that these unacceptable actions will not be repeated.

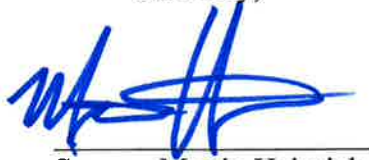
Additionally, we are attaching a separate classified letter regarding inaccurate public statements that you made on another topic in March 2015. We ask that you correct the public record regarding these statements immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We ask that you respond no later than June 1, 2015.

Sincerely,



Senator Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



Senator Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senator



Senator Mazie Hirono
U.S. Senator