

RON WYDEN  
OREGON

RANKING MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE

221 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5244

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

COMMITTEES:

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October 20, 2017

The Honorable Richard M. Burr  
Chairman  
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

The Honorable Mark Warner  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Dear Chairman Burr and Vice Chairman Warner:

I am writing to urge that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hold an open mark-up of legislation reauthorizing Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. This legislation will have enormous impact on the security, liberty, and constitutional rights of the American people. The public has therefore taken a keen interest in the outcome of this mark-up and in specific proposed reforms to Section 702.

I appreciate the Intelligence Committee's role in addressing classified matters and would expect that, should the debate touch on classified issues, the Committee would convene in closed session. But Section 702 has been the subject of extensive public testimony, while relevant FISA Court orders, minimization procedures and other documents have been declassified and released to the public. In this context, the public is right to expect that Congress debate the reauthorization of this authority in the open. Indeed, a transparent legislative process is a fundamental hallmark of our democracy.

Thank you for attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator

911 NE 11TH AVENUE  
SUITE 630  
PORTLAND, OR 97232  
(503) 326-7525

405 EAST 8TH AVE  
SUITE 2020  
EUGENE, OR 97401  
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING  
105 FIR ST  
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LA GRANDE, OR 97850  
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310 WEST 6TH ST  
ROOM 118  
MEDFORD, OR 97501  
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING  
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE  
SUITE 107  
BEND, OR 97701  
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE  
SUITE 285  
SALEM, OR 97301  
(503) 589-4555

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