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72 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

October 16, 2007

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The Honorable Louise Slaughter
Chairwoman
House Rules Committee
H-312
U.S. Capitol

Dear Madame Chairwoman:

We are writing to urge you and the other Members of the House Rules Committee to make in order an amendment to H.R. 3773 from U.S. Representative Rush Holt to require that individualized warrants be secured in order to conduct surveillance of persons in the U.S. pursuant to "basket" warrants authorized under the terms of this bill as reported from the House Judiciary and Intelligence Committees.

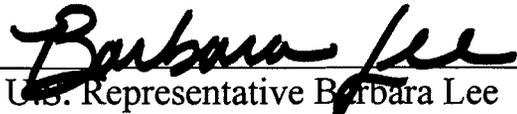
The 4th Amendment protects all Americans from warrantless searches and seizures. This is a bedrock constitutional right for all of our constituents and speaks to the core of what it means to be an American in our great democracy. Accordingly, it is very important that the Holt Amendment be made in order for debate and a vote on the House floor. From a process standpoint, ensuring that the Holt Amendment can be offered will also clarify the stakes in striking the proper balance between preserving individual freedom in America, while also enhancing our safety and security in these troubled times.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



U.S. Representative Lynn Woolsey
Progressive Caucus Co-Chair



U.S. Representative Barbara Lee
Progressive Caucus Co-Chair

Cc: House Democratic Leadership