



House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Chairman

<http://intelligence.house.gov>

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Hoekstra Statement on Passage of Terrorist Surveillance Compromise Bill

Washington, D.C. -- *U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., the top Republican on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, issued the following statement after the House passed legislation to strengthen America's terrorist surveillance capabilities and protect civil liberties:*

"Congress has finally given America's intelligence professionals the tools and authorities they need to help keep our homeland safe. It has been two years since Republicans began efforts to strengthen our nation's terrorist surveillance laws and nearly a year since the director of national intelligence first warned Congress that we were missing vital intelligence needed to protect the nation.

"It should never have taken this long for a House vote, but some see a greater threat from the hardworking professionals in our intelligence community than the actual terrorists who attacked our homeland. The intelligence community is the first line of our nation's defense against terrorists and foreign adversaries. Our intelligence professionals deserve our support. They should not be demonized for the sake of trial lawyers and political partisans.

"From the beginning this effort has been about improving America's ability to prevent the next attack. Passage of this bill represents a victory for those in Congress who have long-argued it is possible to protect our homeland and the civil liberties of Americans at the same time.

"The bill will close gaps in our ability to collect intelligence on foreign targets in foreign countries in order to detect and prevent potential terrorist attacks. It also provides a means of retroactive liability protection for businesses that may have assisted the government help keep our homeland safe from terrorist attacks since 9/11.

"There are elements of this bill that I do not support. We need to continue working to permanently modernize the outdated FISA structure and further clarify the role of the courts in national security matters—especially after last week's egregious Supreme Court decision. Congress will also have to closely monitor whether this bill vests more discretion in the courts than provided for in the Constitution."