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Hoekstra Statement on Signing of Terrorist Surveillance Bill into Law

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 president signed into law legislation to strengthen America’s terrorist surveillance capabilities and protect civil liberties:*

“With the signing of this bill, America’s intelligence professionals can focus on what they have wanted all along—to protect our nation and prevent the next attack. Rather than dismantle the terrorist surveillance program as some pushed, this law confirms decisions made by the bipartisan leadership of Congress and the president in the days after the 9/11 attacks.

“We live in a world in which terrorist communications travel at the speed of light. For the safety of our homeland, it is imperative our intelligence agencies have the ability to move with the same speed and agility. By closing the gaps in our ability to collect intelligence on foreign targets in foreign lands, we have strengthened our capacity to detect and disrupt terrorist plots.

“We know that terrorists have made attempts and continue to plan attacks against our homeland. We also know that we have been able to keep America safe since 9/11 as a direct result of efforts like the terrorist surveillance program. The safety of our nation is not an accident, and it will require ongoing vigilance and tough counterterrorism measures like the law signed today.”