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U.S. House Passes RESTORE Act

House Vote Strengthens Intelligence Gathering While Protecting the Constitution

Washington, D.C. – Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 3773, the RESTORE (The Responsible Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed and Effective) Act by a vote of 227 – 189.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-TX, and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. John Conyers, D-MI, introduced H.R. 3773, which updates the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) by providing additional surveillance tools to the intelligence community to track terrorists and weapons proliferators, while protecting innocent Americans from warrantless eavesdropping.

“Today’s bill helps restore the balance between security and liberty,” said Chairman Reyes. “The RESTORE Act puts the FISA Court back in the business of protecting Americans’ constitutional rights – after the President and Vice President put that court out of that business six years ago.”

The RESTORE Act:

- exempts truly foreign-to-foreign communications from any judicial review, even when that communication passes through the United States or the surveillance device is located in the United States.
- authorizes the acquisition of foreign intelligence information for all matters of national defense, including information relating to terrorism, espionage, sabotage, and other threats to the national security of the nation.
- clarifies that nothing in the Act or the amendments to the Act shall be construed to prohibit lawful surveillance necessary to prevent Osama Bin Laden, al Qaeda, or any other terrorist organization from attacking the U.S. or our allies.

“The House Intelligence Committee is absolutely committed to providing the hardworking men and women of the U.S. intelligence community with powerful tools to protect our nation. This bill empowers these individuals and honors the Constitution, the foundation of our nation,” said Chairman Reyes.