

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 14, 2014

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government  
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jose Serrano  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government  
2227 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw and Ranking Member Serrano:

As you consider the fiscal year 2015 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill, we write to express our strong desire that language be inserted to prohibit funding for a future Federal Communications Commission (FCC) "Critical Information Needs" study.

In December 2013, the House Energy and Commerce Committee brought to light an FCC study which would put government researchers into newsrooms, television stations, and radio stations across the country to question the decisions of how stories are chosen. This study would have allowed government researchers access to newsrooms, allowing them to question not just the content of stories to be published and aired, but also to question the decision-making process behind story selection. This drastic government overreach interferes with a free and open media, and should not be allowed to be funded in the future.

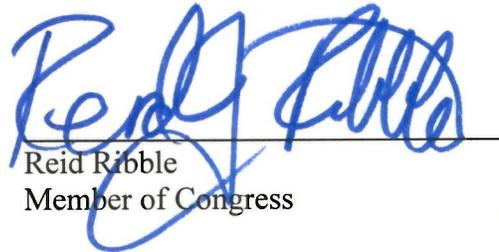
While FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler announced on February 20, 2014 that the FCC has backed off its decision to implement this program, we urge you to prohibit future funding for this program. The FCC should not be in the business of interfering with a free media, and this program is a clear breach of trust with the American people.

We urge the committee to include language prohibiting any funds being used to implement a future Critical Information Needs study. Protecting the First Amendment rights of our news organizations is something we can all support. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Joe Pitts  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



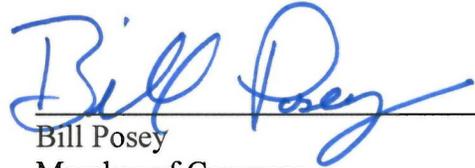
Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Andy Harris  
Member of Congress



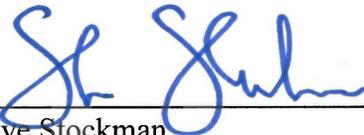
Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



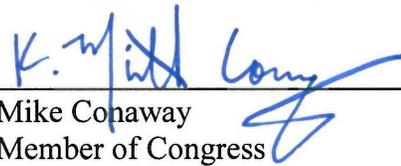
Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



John Fleming  
Member of Congress



Steve Stockman  
Member of Congress



Mike Conaway  
Member of Congress



Rich Nugent  
Member of Congress



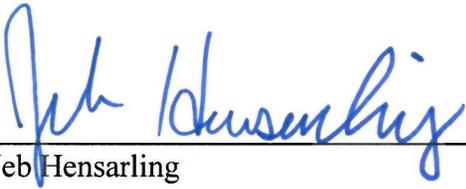
Renee Ellmers  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling  
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup  
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress