



INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
WASHINGTON, DC 20511

June 15, 2012

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Udall
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Udall:

Thank you for your 4 May 2012 letter requesting that my office and the National Security Agency (NSA) Inspector General (IG) determine the feasibility of estimating "how many people inside the United States have had their communications collected or reviewed under the authorities granted by section 702" of the FISA Amendment Act (FAA). On 21 May 2012, I informed you that the NSA Inspector General, George Ellard, would be taking the lead on the requested feasibility assessment, as his office could provide an expedited response to this important inquiry.

The NSA IG provided a classified response on 6 June 2012. I defer to his conclusion that obtaining such an estimate was beyond the capacity of his office and dedicating sufficient additional resources would likely impede the NSA's mission. He further stated that his office and NSA leadership agreed that an IG review of the sort suggested would itself violate the privacy of U.S. persons.

As I stated in my confirmation hearing and as we have specifically discussed, I firmly believe that oversight of intelligence collection is a proper function of an Inspector General. I will continue to work with you and the Committee to identify

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The Honorable Mark Udall

ways that we can enhance our ability to conduct effective oversight. If you have any questions concerning this response, please contact me at (703) 482-4955.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "I. Charles McCullough, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "I." at the beginning and "III" at the end.

I. Charles McCullough, III
Inspector General of the Intelligence Community