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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

May 18, 2004

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

• SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE,  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

• SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

• SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND INVESTIGATIONS

• SUBCOMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
AND THE INTERNET

Mr. Quentin Smith  
39 Deer Run Rd.  
Hollis, New Hampshire 03049

Dear Mr. Smith:

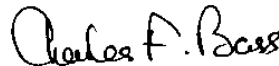
Thank you for contacting me to express your thoughts and concerns about the U.S.A. Patriot Act and the expansion of law enforcement's authority and capacity. It was good to hear from you on this important issue.

I certainly appreciate your interest and input on this critical issue. As September 11 brutally demonstrated, all reasonable efforts must be made to ensure the protection of Americans from the very real threat of future terrorist attacks. On October 26, 2001, President Bush enacted compromise legislation that provides our law enforcement officers and intelligence community additional tools to prevent future attacks. The U.S.A. Patriot Act, H.R. 3162, which I supported, expands the FBI's wiretapping authority, increases punishment for terrorists, and imposes stronger penalties on those who harbor or finance terrorists.

As you may know, Representative C.L. "Butch" Otter (R-ID) recently introduced H.R. 3352, the Security and Freedom Ensured (SAFE) Act. This bill would impose limits on the government's authority to obtain warrants for roving wiretaps, sunset certain provisions of the U.S.A. Patriot Act not included originally, and allow Congress to revisit them after December 31, 2005. I believe it is extremely important that Congress continue to maintain strict oversight of our national security laws and support the development of future legislation that that will enhance our homeland defense. H.R. 3352 is currently pending before the House Judiciary Committee. Although I am not a member of this Committee, please be assured that I will keep your support in mind should this bill come before the full House for consideration.

Again, thank you for getting in touch. Please do not hesitate to do so again on other issues of importance to you.

Sincerely,



Charles F. Bass  
Member of Congress

CFB:JW

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