

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 19, 2015

United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

We urge you to oppose the nomination of Loretta E. Lynch for Attorney General of the United States.

Article II, Section 2 of our Constitution regarding approving Presidential nominees includes the power, even the obligation, for the Senate to withhold consent when there are questions about a nominee's fitness. Since this important power is vested in the Senate alone, we write to you to express our very serious concerns with Ms. Lynch and to urge each of you to withhold consent and reject her nomination.

We appreciate Ms. Lynch for her many years of outstanding service to our nation. Nonetheless, having observed her nomination hearing testimony, we can only conclude that she has no intention of departing in any meaningful way from the policies of Attorney General Eric Holder, who has politicized the Department of Justice and done considerable harm to the administration of justice.

We know that Ms. Lynch will continue these policies by her own words. When given chances to differentiate herself from Attorney General Holder, she chose not to. When asked what she would have done differently from Attorney General Holder's handling of the Fast and Furious controversy, she gave a non-responsive answer, saying "I'm not able to really categorically answer one way or the other as to how that's been managed." And when asked whether, unlike Attorney General Holder, she would appoint a special prosecutor to investigate the targeting of conservative groups by the Internal Revenue Service, she deflected the question, saying "[m]y understanding is that that matter has been considered and that the matter has been resolved to continue with the investigation as currently set forth."

Our larger concern is with Ms. Lynch's apparent unwillingness to stand up to the President and his unconstitutional efforts to circumvent Congress and enlarge the powers of his office. As Attorney General, Ms. Lynch would be called upon to swear an oath to the Constitution, not to the President. Unfortunately, her largely non-responsive answers to numerous questions about the scope of the President's power to suspend enforcement of the laws give us every reason to doubt that she will be able to fulfill her oath to the Constitution.

The issue of the President's amnesty policy gives us great concern. Under the guise of exercising "prosecutorial discretion," the President has erected a bureaucratic apparatus to accept millions of applications from illegal immigrants, grant them "deferred action" from deportation, and then issue them authorizations to work, all without Congress's approval. When asked whether she agreed with the legal rationale concocted to justify the President's actions, she said that she found it to be "reasonable," the obvious implication being, of course, that she would continue to follow it. And indeed, not once during the hearing did Ms. Lynch ever disavow—or even question—the legality of the President's actions.

Although the President's nominee cannot reasonably be expected to publicly oppose the President's policies, the Attorney General has an independent duty to uphold and defend the Constitution. We contend that, at the very least, you should reject Ms. Lynch's nomination to register your disapproval with this Administration's persistent, lawless conduct. Refusing to confirm the President's nominees is but one of several important, constitutionally provided tools, and we urge you to employ it here. Anything less would be an abdication of Congress's responsibility to check the President when he exceeds his constitutional powers, as this President has done on countless occasions. A vote for this nominee should fairly be considered a vote in favor of the President's lawlessness and against the will of the American people.

We respectfully ask that you refuse to vote Ms. Lynch out of the committee, and that you return her nomination to the President.

Sincerely,



Jim Bridenstine (R-OK)  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Randy Weber (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks (R-AL)  
Member of Congress



John Fleming (R-LA)  
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Jeff Duncan (R-SC)  
Member of Congress



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Pete Sessions (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Andy Harris (R-MD)  
Member of Congress



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Austin Scott (R-GA)  
Member of Congress



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Ted Yoho (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



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Louie Gohmert (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Ted Poe (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Chris Stewart (R-UT)  
Member of Congress



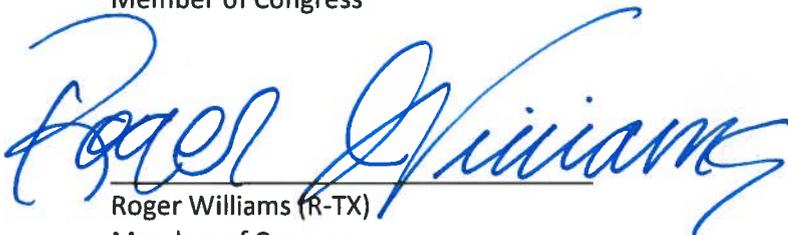
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Paul Gosar (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress



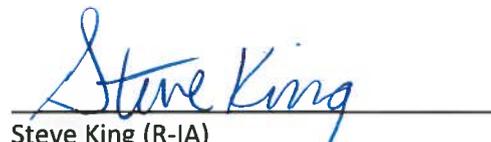
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David Schweikert (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress



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Roger Williams (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



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Steve King (R-IA)  
Member of Congress



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Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)  
Member of Congress



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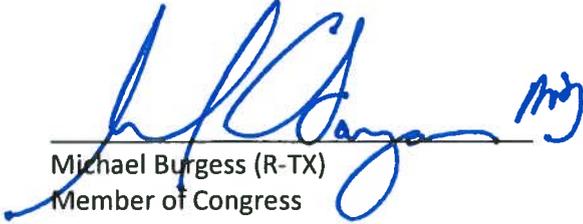
Dave Brat (R-VA)  
Member of Congress



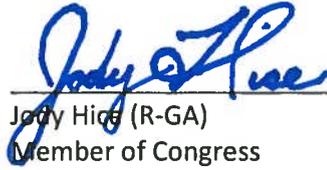
John Ratcliffe (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice (R-GA)  
Member of Congress



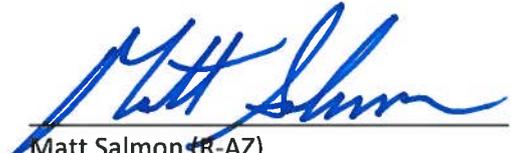
Pete Olson (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson (R-SC)  
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk (R-GA)  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress



Ron DeSantis (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)  
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)  
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows (R-NC)  
Member of Congress



Luke Messer (R-IN)  
Member of Congress



Dan Webster (R-FL)  
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers (R-AL)  
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks (R-AZ)  
Member of Congress



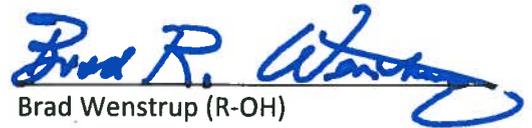
John Carter (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



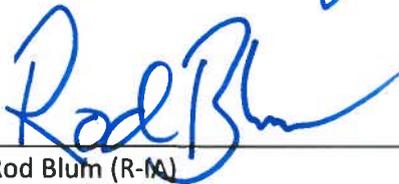
Doug Lamborn (R-CO)  
Member of Congress



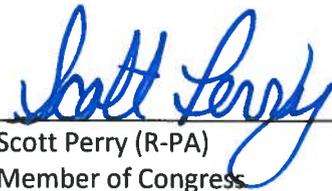
Mike Conaway (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



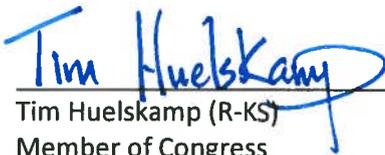
Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)  
Member of Congress



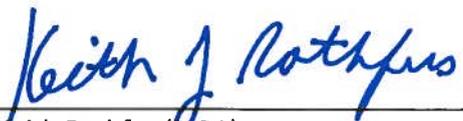
Rod Blum (R-IA)  
Member of Congress



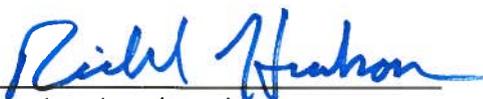
Scott Perry (R-PA)  
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp (R-KS)  
Member of Congress



Keith Rothfus (R-PA)  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson (R-NC)  
Member of Congress



Randy Neugebauer (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant (R-TX)  
Member of Congress



Phil Roe (R-TN)  
Member of Congress