Dear Representative McAllister,

While we personally weren’t old enough to experience the tragic and catastrophic event of September 11, 2001, it has nonetheless shaped our view of our great nation and taught us about the values we hold dear as a country. Since elementary school the fiery images of destruction and loss of life on that day have become imprinted in our minds. We have inherited our founding fathers’ appreciation for our most fundamental rights as citizens, such as life and liberty. All American citizens are entitled to these rights, and they should be safeguarded and protected from enemies, foreign and domestic. After becoming aware of *The New York Times* article regarding the death of the American citizens Anwar al-Awlaki and his teenage son, we were shocked the U.S. government would use technological warfare to kill two Americans and deny them their rights to due process under the law. However, after further investigation of the events surrounding al-Awlaki, we understand the government’s actions and support the current national security policy.

Anwar al-Awlaki was a natural-born citizen but not a natural-born patriot. He did not value the rights to which he was entitled and actively conspired to rob us of our freedom by training and recruiting al Qaeda operatives while organizing and ordering attacks on the U.S. troops. Due to al-Awlaki’s direct terroristic activities, the U.S. government was justified in proclaiming him an “imminent threat to U.S. national security”, thus denying him the rights of an American citizen. While we respect the rights of all Americans, one citizen’s rights does not trump another’s. America cannot compromise the rights of many to protect the rights of one.

Even though we agree with the current national security policy, some improvements must be made. We ask that you consider the following recommendations. One, this policy should only be considered under the direst of circumstances. It should be limited because of how much we value the rights of our citizens. Two, in the event of a threat of our national security where the policy should be enforced, the American people should be made aware of the circumstances in a timely manner. We understand that not all information can be shared with the public for our protection, but more transparency on the part of the government would result in more trust on the part of the citizens.

In conclusion, we respectfully ask that you, Rep. McAllister, consider our thoughts and propose these recommendations to your fellow congress people. We support the current national security policy of the U.S. and comprehend the choices the government has to make in order to keep us safe. By implementing these recommendations, we believe that our country will reflect the views that were conceived by our forefathers.