Dear Senator Vitter,

As concerned citizen, I would like to pressure your hand at challenging the overstretched hand of the Obama administration and its illegal, unconstitutional, and immoral use of drone strikes and executive power.

As of 2011, president Obama authorized a drone strike on Anwar Al-Awlaki, a US citizen suspected of recruiting members for the terrorist organization AL-Qaeda, as well as organizing and proliferating attacks on US soldiers stationed in middle eastern countries. This drone strike comes off information collected by the Central Intelligence Agency, which also placed Al-Awlaki on a “kill list.” My issue lies not with labeling him as terrorist, but in the disregard of the United States for both domestic and foreign laws as well as the implications that come with such acts.

Since Al-Awlaki was considered a US citizen he legally had rights to a fair trial under the 5th amendment of the US constitution. His rights were completely disregarded and his life taken along with his 16-year-old son who had no known ties to terrorist groups and was by all practical matters a needless casualty. This incident, coupled with the fact that any form of aggression sanctioned by US government on foreign soil can legally be deemed an act of war, which also violates Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 of The Constitution. This clause states that only congress has the power to declare war and that the Obama administration’s aggressive actions with drones on foreign soil clearly defied this extremely important law set to limit the power of federal authority.

To address the implications mentioned previously, the Department of Homeland Security recently released guidelines to several dozen law enforcement agencies that outlined potential traits of domestic terrorists. These traits included things such as self-sufficiency, excessive patriotism, supporting the second amendment, and proponents of individual liberty. These new outlines of domestic terrorist should be worrying for many of the people who voted you into office, as well as worrying to you, seeing as your voting record in the senate easily classifies you according to this list. This fact coupled with the executive cabinets disregard for constitutional law and new found tool for eliminating “hostiles” could lead to US citizens being struck down in a time of civil unrest. Please however do not take this letter as the ramblings of a crazed citizen but as the prose of question into just how far American citizens are willing to let people in places of authority over reach the power granted upon them.

Please, as a representative of the great state of Louisiana and as an honorable man, bring forth this question: Are we as free Americans willing to allow a power abusive, federal government violate the few laws set forth to contain it, and allow the executive branch to operate as “judge, jury, and of course executioner?”

Very respectfully,

A Concerned Citizen