June 12, 2015

Dear Mr. Vitter,

You, like our forefathers and our president, have both the tremendous privilege and heavy responsibility of serving America and her citizens at a critical time in our history. Unfortunately, in 2013, Americans learned that President Obama and his council sanctioned a drone attack in2011 targeting American citizen and suspected terrorist Anwar al-Awlaki and his son. While our administration and national intelligence sources had evidence and reason to believe al-Awlaki was a threat to American safety, his teenage son was not implicated in those crimes and too was an American casualty. As difficult of a decision as it must have been for our leaders to make, Obama and his advisors made a grave mistake in issuing a death warrant for American citizens violating the rights of these men and bruised our national integrity.

As Americans, we are endowed with privileges and rights as citizens of our free and democratic country which you as a public servant work to preserve and uphold. The Declaration of Independence, drafted by Thomas Jefferson and signed by 56 self-declared free men, sketched out guiding fundamental principles of equality and man's inalienable rights to freedom and happiness which we recognize as threads of our American identity today. These beliefs were echoed in the drafting of our nation's constitution and are the skeleton onto which Madison fleshed out the Bill of Rights, a declaration of individual liberties including but not limited to freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, due process, and trial by jury. Our administration did not have the privilege or right to decide al-Awlaki’s guilt or assign and deliver his punishment. Despite al-Awlaki’s suspected crimes, he and his son, American citizens, were afforded the right to due process and a trial by a jury of his peers as described in the Fifth and Sixth Amendment. The sixth amendment states, "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial." Al-Alwaki was never given this opportunity as Obama took matters into his own hands as judge, jury, and executioner.

It is important and necessary for Americans, both individual citizens and elected officials entrusted by the public, to consider the implications of this delicate situation and the assault to civil and individual liberties made. While our government and military are charged with the daunting task of keeping America safe, they are also entrusted with keeping us free by protecting our freedoms.

Though it may be difficult, an investigation should be made into the actions taken in 2011 by the United States government. Americans, both her citizens and her faithful servants, by nature and responsibility have never shied away, even in the hardest of times, from the noble task of protecting and defending America, liberty, and justice for all.

Thank you for your service and your time and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,  
A Concerned Citizen