

EXHIBIT A

United States v. Sterling, No. 1:10-CR-00485 (E.D. Va.)

Mike Rogers, Michigan, Chairman
 Mac Thornberry, Texas
 Sue Myrick, North Carolina
 Jeff Miller, Florida
 K. Michael Conaway, Texas
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 Michele Bachmann, Minnesota
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 C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Maryland, Ranking Member
 Mike Thompson, California
 Justin D. Schawinsky, Illinois
 James R. Langevin, Rhode Island
 Adam B. Schiff, California
 Dan Boren, Oklahoma
 Liza V. Gohmert, Illinois
 Ben Chandler, Kentucky
 John A. Boehner, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
 Nancy Pelosi, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
 ON INTELLIGENCE

HVC-304, THE CAPITOL
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515
 (202) 225-4121
 Michael Aiken, STAFF DIRECTOR

October 12, 2011

By Electronic Mail

Mr. William M. Welch II
 Senior Litigation Counsel
 United States Attorney's Office
 2100 Jamieson Avenue
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Welch:

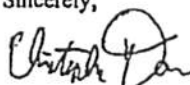
This letter is to advise you formally that, in response to your request, the Committee voted yesterday with a quorum present to approve a motion by Chairman Rogers to authorize former staff member Mike Sheehy to discuss certain matters in connection with the pending case United States v. Sterling.

Specifically, the Committee has authorized Mr. Sheehy to discuss matters involving a meeting held by Mr. Sterling with Committee staff on or about August 8, 2000, and to provide testimony about that meeting in the trial of United States v. Sterling, so long as appropriate protections are in place to prevent the public disclosure of any classified information.

As you may know, Committee Rule 12, adopted pursuant to Constitutional authority (U.S. Const. art. 1, §5, cl. 2), provides that "Members of the Committee and the Committee staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee Staff in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during the person's tenure as a member of the Committee, or of the Committee Staff, or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these Rules."

Finally, the Committee understands that House and Committee counsel will be present at any meeting or court proceeding in which Mr. Sheehy discusses or testifies about these matters. Please let me know if I can answer any questions regarding the scope of the Committee's authorization or the Committee Rules.

Sincerely,



Christopher Donesa
 Chief Counsel

cc: Edward D. McMahon, Jr.
 Barry J. Pollack
 Counsel for Mr. Sterling

Kerry Kircher
 General Counsel, House of Representatives