

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
Agents Association

July 31, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
Chairman  
Comm. on Oversight & Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Comm. on Oversight & Government Reform  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: H.R. 2711, the *Citizen Empowerment Act***

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings:

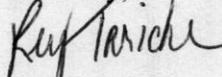
On behalf of the FBI Agents Association ("FBIAA"), a voluntary professional association currently representing approximately 13,000 active duty and retired FBI Special Agents, I write to express the FBIAA's concerns about H.R. 2711, the *Citizen Empowerment Act*.

H.R. 2711 creates a broad right to record conversations with federal employees, and requires that notices of the right to record conversations be provided to individuals engaged in discussions with federal employees—without any exceptions related to criminal investigations. This proposal risks undermining criminal investigations by reducing the willingness of individuals to cooperate with law enforcement, and would result in the creation of recordings of law enforcement conversations that could jeopardize sensitive and important criminal and counterterrorism investigations.

Also, by requiring written notices under the threat of disciplinary action, H.R. 2711 would create new administrative and bureaucratic requirements for Agents conducting investigations. The time and resources available to Agents are already stretched too thin, and new administrative burdens make it more difficult for Agents to protect the public.

For these reasons, the FBIAA opposes H.R. 2711 as currently written, and hopes that the House will make significant changes to H.R. 2711 before considering the legislation.

Sincerely,



Rey Tariche  
President

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**A Non-Governmental Association**

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