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

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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MICHAEL J. DELANEY  
STAFF DIRECTOR

JAMES M. LEWIS  
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Please find enclosed a letter to the CIA workforce. I would appreciate if you would disseminate it to the CIA workforce as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Silvestre Reyes  
Chairman

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Dear Friends and Colleagues:

In recent days, as the public debate regarding CIA's interrogation practices has raged, you have been very much in my thoughts. I write to let you know, without sound-bites or political calculus, my view on this debate and to remind you of my deep gratitude for the work you do each day.

First and foremost, I wholeheartedly support the President's decision that no CIA officer or contractor will be prosecuted for authorized actions they took in the context of interrogations. I may disagree with some of what the Agency was asked to do, but I understand that my disagreement lies with the policies, not with the officers executing those policies far from Washington. As the President said, this is a time for reflection, not retribution, and I do not want to see anyone punished for doing his or her job.

At the same time, I think we should take seriously the President's call for reflection. The public rarely learns of CIA operations, with good reason. In this case, though, the public disclosure of interrogation operations and the OLC opinions underlying them gives us an opportunity to engage in a public discourse about what policy is best going forward. I think that discourse can be a healthy thing for the country and for CIA.

One important lesson to me from the CIA's interrogation operations involves congressional oversight. I'm going to examine closely ways in which we can change the law to make our own oversight of CIA more meaningful; I want to move from mere notification to real discussion. Good oversight can lead to a partnership, and that's what I am looking to bring about. I recognize, of course, that there will always be inherent tensions between the branches of government; the Framers intended it that way. But, I also believe that there are positive changes

we can make to the way we do business, and I will be working toward those changes in the coming months.

Finally, I want to say again what I have said to many of you in my travels throughout the world: thank you. I know that your work is difficult and often dangerous, and takes you away from your families, your country, and the comforts of home. I am grateful for your sacrifices, and I am mindful of them daily.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Silvestre Reyes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Silvestre Reyes  
Chairman