Good morning Commissioners,

I stand before you this morning because I am concerned. Why are my beliefs as a United States citizen becoming target points for the Department of Homeland Security? They are turning many of us into “enemies of the state,” because we fly the flag, support our Constitution, and have proudly defended our country. I believe that if you look at the long list of identifying characteristics on the DHS watch list to identify “terrorists,” “belligerents,” and “enemies of the state,” you will understand why I am becoming increasingly afraid. It would be very easy to be placed on that list by associating with an individual you only know casually.

Because of two sections of the National security Act, section 1021 and section 1022, I believe we are all in potential jeopardy.

The latest technology provides the means to invade my privacy, but does that give the government, Federal or State, the right to negate my Constitutional rights without court warrant, because there is advanced technology to monitor not only my behavior but yours?

Our freedom of speech is being curtailed by excessive monitoring. What is being monitored? News reports indicate that our e-mails, driving
Under the National Defense Authorization Act one person is allowed to decide who is a belligerent.

Fairly recently, before a Federal court, no description was given to the judge about what the legal definition of a belligerent would be. As she saw it, that left the term open ended and could be used to describe almost any unwanted course of action.

An individual with such unlimited power could easily lead us into tyranny without our due process.

I'm here to plead for your assistance because the only protection that any of have, even from unintentional tyranny, is our right to due process. Which is provided for in our Constitution.

Unfortunately, this right is gutted by the National Defense Authorization Act.

There is no one person I would trust with the power to imprison people purely and only on the grounds of suspicion.

Even if there is no one in government today who would place a person in detention camp for dissenting, there may be one day.
routes, phone and public conversations, as well as walking or driving to my destinations all have become fair game for surveillance.

In addition, using the Common Core Curriculum in our schools will allow our children and their families to be monitored throughout their school years and become part of our governments huge data bank.

I shudder to think about DHS purchasing billions of rounds of ammunition, plastic explosives, and tanks. Why do we need another strong military/policing force in our country? How many policing agencies do we need? Is a standing and reserve Army not enough to protect us? But...is this arming up of the DHS being done to protect us or to make the citizens increasingly fearful of our government as they monitor our every thought, movement, and purchase?

I believe in our Constitution.....

Not the shredding of parts of it. Due process is part of our liberty, our freedom, and our sacred belief in the rule of law.

That part of the National Defense Authorization Act I protest destroys our VI Amendment right to due process.

Without due process I believe we become intimidated citizens, cowering before a powerful government.
If the National Defense Authorization Act stands as it is written there will be no protection for dissidents. There will be no protection for anyone, even if the person is not a political protester but just a person who an individual in power wants to imprison or otherwise punish. There are no protection for our freedom other than the ones protected by American law.

Sections 1021 and 1022 of the National Defense Authorization Act deny us our Constitutional guarantee of a speedy public trial.

I hope that you, the leaders of our community, will take steps to do what you can do to protect your citizens from Sections 1021 and 1022 of the national Defense Authorization act.

Thank you for the time.