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DAMON NELSON
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September 15, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We urge you not to pardon Edward Snowden, who perpetrated the largest and most damaging public disclosure of classified information in our nation's history. If Mr. Snowden returns from Russia, where he fled in 2013, the U.S. government must hold him accountable for his actions.

In a press conference on August 9, 2013, you said, "I don't think Mr. Snowden was a patriot." On September 15, 2016, after an exhaustive two-year review, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence unanimously approved a final report entitled *Review of Unauthorized Disclosures by Former NSA Contractor Edward Snowden*. In short, we agree with you. Mr. Snowden is not a patriot. He is not a whistleblower. He is a criminal.

Mr. Snowden's claim that he stole this information and disclosed it to protect Americans' privacy and civil liberties is undercut by his actions. Rather than avail himself of the many lawful avenues to express legal, moral, or ethical qualms with U.S. intelligence activities, Mr. Snowden stole 1.5 million classified documents from National Security Agency networks. The vast majority of the documents had nothing to do with programs impacting individual privacy interests, but instead pertain to military, defense, and intelligence programs of great interest to America's enemies. In the course of doing so, he infringed on the privacy of thousands of his friends, colleagues, and fellow citizens by obtaining security credentials through misleading means, abusing his access as a systems administrator, and removing personally identifiable information.

Moreover, the material Mr. Snowden stole pertains to lawful intelligence activities authorized and overseen by all three branches of government. He took the material to China and Russia—two regimes that routinely violate their citizens' privacy and civil liberties. The

information released to the public is also available to hostile intelligence services, terrorists, and many others who wish to do us harm. Snowden insists he has not shared the 1.5 million documents with anyone, but Russian officials publically concede that he "did share intelligence" with their government.

America's intelligence professionals take Mr. Snowden's disclosures personally. We share their view that a pardon would severely undermine America's intelligence institutions and core principles, and would subvert the range of procedures in place to protect whistleblowers.

Sincerely,

Darin Nunn

K. J. ... TX-11

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