

*Dear Commissioner Sopkin:*

*Recent media stories have reported that Verizon, AT&T, BellSouth and other telecommunications companies are providing the National Security Agency (NSA) with mass access to personal communications without any warrant or other legal order.*

*If true, telecommunications companies appear to be violating our constitution and state laws by providing the NSA with details about my phone calls and those of other residents of our state. I am writing to request that you use the full extent of your powers to investigate these companies' cooperation with the NSA and any and all violations of state laws that are occurring under your watch.*

*The Governor of Vermont has already ordered the state's Commissioner of Public Service to investigate whether Verizon violated the state's laws, and the commissioner has already declared that "It is entirely inappropriate for Verizon, or any other telecommunication company" to release phone records "without abiding by the proper legal process."*

*Similarly, on May 15th the Maine Public Utilities Commission began an investigation into customer complaints about NSA spying. The Commission ordered Verizon to address "the extent to which the actions alleged in the complaint and in the USA Today article implicate the privacy rights of Maine telephone service subscribers."*

*I also ask that you request the Attorney General to seek injunctions against those telecommunications companies in your jurisdiction that are violating state law by aiding the NSA in its illegal spying program.*

*As the Commissioner of Public Utilities, you are entrusted with the duty of safeguarding the privacy of my communications. I am counting on you to protect my privacy and the privacy of other phone customers in our state.*

*Thank you,*

*John Q. Public*