RON WYDEN
OREGON

RANKING MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

221 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5244

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3703

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May 23, 2017

Thomas D. Homan
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Homan:

A recent media report suggests that Deportation Officers from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations are using stingray surveillance devices to locate individuals in order to arrest and deport them.

As you know, stingrays, also called IMSI catchers, are an extremely controversial surveillance technology. These devices, first created for the military and intelligence community, have in recent years trickled down to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Stingrays are undoubtedly a useful tool for law enforcement agencies—who have a difficult, dangerous, and important job to do. However, the power of this surveillance technology comes with serious collateral costs—stingrays also send probing tracking signals into the homes of innocent people nearby, and can apparently even disrupt their ability to make and receive calls, including to 911.

Stingrays impose too high a toll on communities to be used to investigate low level, non-violent offenses, such as locating individuals who have entered the country illegally or overstayed a visa.

Please provide me with answers to the following questions by June 30, 2017.

1. How many times has ICE used stingrays or similar surveillance technology during each of the last five years to locate individuals in order to arrest and deport them?
2. What policies govern the use of stingrays in immigration enforcement operations?
3. What steps does ICE take during stingray operations to limit interference with or disruptions to the cell phones of innocent Americans?

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Anderson Heiman with the Finance Committee Staff at (202) 224 4515.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

CC:
Kevin K. McAleenan, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
John F. Kelly, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

911 NE 11TH AVENUE
SUITE 630
PORTLAND, OR 97232
(503) 326-7525

405 EAST 8TH AVE
SUITE 2020
EUGENE, OR 97401
(541) 431-0229

SAC ANNEX BUILDING
105 FIR ST
SUITE 201
LA GRANDE, OR 97850
(541) 962-7691

U.S. COURTHOUSE
310 WEST 6TH ST
ROOM 118
MEDFORD, OR 97501
(541) 858-5122

THE JAMISON BUILDING
131 NW HAWTHORNE AVE
SUITE 107
BEND, OR 97701
(541) 330-9142

707 13TH ST, SE
SUITE 285
SALEM, OR 97301
(503) 589-4555

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