

MARTHA MCSALLY
2ND DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 9, 2016

1029 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2542

4400 E BROADWAY BOULEVARD
SUITE 510
TUCSON, AZ 85711
(520) 881-3588

77 CALLE PORTAL
SUITE B160
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635
(520) 459-3115

MCSALLY.HOUSE.GOV

The Honorable James B. Comey, Jr.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Comey,

Last year, a journalistic investigation completed by the Associated Press found that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had been conducting operations flying surveillance planes over 30 cities in 11 states across the country. More recent reports indicated that similar operations have been carried out in Tucson, Arizona over the past several months. According to FBI spokeswoman Lindsay Ram, these "aviation assets" may be intended to support "investigations targeting specific individuals and, when requested, in support of state and local law enforcement." In addition, these reports describe the FBI flights that have garnered the attention of my constituents as being registered to a company called "NBY Productions," prompting further confusion about the nature and purpose of these flights.

The FBI is tasked with protecting the American people. As someone who served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force, including overseeing counterterrorism missions, and who currently serves on the Committees on Homeland Security and Armed Services, I understand the weight of that important mission. However, carrying out this mission must not come at the expense of Americans' privacy rights. The reported frequency and nature of the recent flights around Tucson raise significant concerns about the preservation of my constituents' Fourth Amendment rights.

I request a description with as much detail as possible of the scope and purpose of the FBI's operations, either current or from the last year, in and around Tucson involving these surveillance flights. I understand aspects of this information may be sensitive for public release and therefore am willing to discuss any responses in a classified setting as needed. However, please address as many of these questions in a manner appropriate for public disclosure as possible. I would like to thank you for your attention to this matter and your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha McSally".

Martha McSally
Member of Congress