

A Resolution Unanimously Approved by the Saugerties New York Democratic Committee  
August 28, 2007

Whereas the Bush administration has repeatedly violated the protections of the Constitution of the United States against the unlawful warrantless surveillance of American citizens through their regular mail, their e-mail communications and their telephone conversations;

and whereas the Bush administration has consistently violated the core human ethics and moral values of the United States that have made us different for over 200 years from totalitarian countries through its use of rendition and torture, even though it refuses to call its treatment of illegally seized and held individuals by that name;

and whereas the leadership of the Justice Department of the United States, especially but not solely represented by the Attorney General, is more interested in serving the President of the United States in these unlawful and unconstitutional activities than in protecting the rights of the citizens of the United States and upholding the laws of the United States;

and whereas the Democratic Party was given a majority in both houses of Congress in the recent congressional elections in part to put a stop to this unconstitutional and unprecedented assumption by the President of powers and actions in direct violation of the Constitution's mandated protections of our civil rights and rights of privacy;

we, the Democratic Party of Saugerties, wish to express our support and appreciation of those Democratic members of Congress who voted against the new FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) bill (s 1927 "Protect America Act") which not only supports but actually extends the administration's illegal and unconstitutional spying activities; and express both our disappointment and dismay at those Democrats in the House and Senate who sided with the Republican minority to help pass this bill.

This is not why Democrats were returned to majority positions in both houses of Congress and we strongly urge these Democratic legislators to reassess their choices and decisions and begin to act in the manner that the majority of the voters elected them to act or they will once again find themselves in the minority and forfeit the only remaining check on the autocratic actions and activities of the current administration.