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April 24, 2013

Mr. Thomas Kelly
Acting Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your participation at today's House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on export control reform. As I mentioned in the hearing, the Global Online Freedom Act of 2013 (GOFA, H.R. 419) would require the enactment of new export controls on "goods and technologies that would serve the primary purpose of assisting, or be specifically configured to assist, a foreign government in acquiring the capability to carry out censorship, surveillance.." The full text of the bill is attached.

Current export control laws do not take into account the human rights impact of these exports and therefore do not create any incentive for U.S. companies to evaluate their role in assisting repressive regimes. GOFA will not only stop the sale of these items to repressive governments, but will create an important foreign policy stance for the United States that will ensure that dissidents abroad know we are on their side, and that U.S. businesses are not profiting from this repression.

I would appreciate your specific response on the Department of State's views on this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Smith, M.C.

