

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable John Boehner
The Speaker of the House of
Representatives
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader of the Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader of the House of
Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader of the Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President and Leaders of Congress:

The undersigned write to urge you to publicly recognize the courage of whistleblowers by supporting [National Whistleblower Appreciation Day](#). On July 30th, 1778 at the height of the American Revolution, our Founding Fathers unanimously passed what very well may be the world's first law supporting whistleblowers and recognizing the right of all citizens to report "misconduct, frauds and misdemeanors" to the "appropriate authority."

Whistleblowers are our first and best line of defense against fraud and misconduct. Every day they save the taxpayers' money, protect the public safety, and play a vital role in ensuring government and corporate accountability.

However, many Americans who have witnessed misconduct and corruption fear they will be retaliated against by their employer or unsupported by the government after risking their careers to report violations of law. Setting July 30th aside to recognize the wisdom of the Founding Fathers' vision and celebrate the accomplishments of whistleblowers will alleviate that fear. It will help transform a culture where hostility towards whistleblowers is all too common into one that supports integrity and accountability.

We strongly commend the Senate for passing the [2013](#) and [2014](#) resolutions recognizing National Whistleblower Appreciation Day. We urge the Senate to do the same again this year and urge the House of Representatives to recognize the day as well. We also urge Congress and the President to work together to introduce legislation marking National Whistleblower

Appreciation Day as a permanent day recognizing the historic actions of our Founding Fathers and celebrating the contributions of whistleblowers.

As part of the legislation we urge Congress require the heads of each federal agency use that day as an opportunity to set the ‘tone at the top,’ calling public attention to the contributions whistleblowers have made to American democracy and their own agencies. The legislation should mandate that during the week upon which July 30th falls each year all federal agencies should highlight the role whistleblowers have played in their agencies to combat waste, fraud, and abuse and enforce the laws of the land.

Having the head of each federal agency publicly acknowledge the value of whistleblowing will play a critical role in changing the perception of whistleblowers. Designating July 30th as a permanent occasion to celebrate whistleblowers will create an opportunity and a platform to change a culture that all too often prevents law enforcement from learning about waste, fraud and abuse that harms the taxpayers, into one that actively encourages citizens to play a role in combating fraud and corruption.

On July 30th, 1778, our Founding Fathers made it clear that bringing misconduct and abuse to light was a fundamental part of being a citizen in the new democracy. They [unanimously resolved](#):

“That it is the duty of all persons in the service of the United States, as well as all other inhabitants thereof, to give the earliest information to Congress or any other proper authority of any misconduct, frauds or misdemeanors committed by any persons in the service of these states, which may come to their knowledge.”

Our Founding Fathers foresaw that whistleblowers would play a critical role in maintaining the integrity of our democratic institutions and protecting our nation from fraud and corruption. Whistleblowers have succeeded remarkably in this role. It is time our government officially recognize the foresight of our Founding Fathers.

Respectfully submitted,

National Whistleblower Center

Taxpayers Against Fraud

Public Citizen

Government Accountability Project

Project on Government Oversight

Judicial Watch

Liberty Coalition

Bunnatine H. Greenhouse
Army Corps of Engineers
Whistleblower

Belinda Ferrell
Air Force Whistleblower

Daniel Richardson
Bristol-Meyers Squibb
Whistleblower

James J. Bobreski
D.C. Water and Sewer Authority
Whistleblower

Kiki Ikossi
Department of Defense
Whistleblower

Robin Weiss
Department of Interior
Whistleblower

Yolanda White, MD
Department of Health and Human
Services Whistleblower

Thomas F. Day
Department of Homeland Security
Whistleblower

Julia Davis
Department of Homeland Security
Whistleblower

Martin Andersen
Department of Justice Whistleblower
and recipient of the first annual
Public Service Award from the
Office of Special Counsel

Christy Ford
Environmental Whistleblower

David Lewis
Environmental Protection Agency
Whistleblower

William Sanjour
Environmental Protection Agency
Whistleblower

Bogdan Dzakovic
Federal Aviation Administration
Whistleblower

Colleen Rowley
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Whistleblower

Jane Turner
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Whistleblower

Frederic Whitehurst
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Whistleblower

Bassem Youssef
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Whistleblower

Paul B. Harrison
Federal Deposit Insurance
Corporation Whistleblower

Scott Rosen
Financial Fraud Whistleblower

Ronald E. Kavanagh
Food and Drug Administration
Whistleblower

Russell D. Tice
National Security Agency
Whistleblower

Kevin Downing
New York Department of Labor
Whistleblower

Harry Markopolos
Securities Trading (Bernie Madoff)
Whistleblower

Robert Maclean
Transportation Security
Administration Whistleblower

Bradley Birkenfeld
UBS (Swiss Banking) Whistleblower

ACORN8

Bill of Rights Defense Committee

Black Females for Justice II at Social
Security Administration, Inc.

Blacks in Government, Heritage Chapter

Center for Financial Privacy and Human
Rights

Coalition For Change, Inc. – C4C

Congress Against Racism and Corruption in
Law Enforcement

Defending Dissent Foundation

Drum Majors for Truth

Federal Ethics Center

Federally Employed Women Legal
Education Fund

Golden Badge

Justice Integrity Project

National Forum on Judicial Accountability

National Network of State Community

Councils

ONUS, Inc.

OpenTheGovernment.org

Organizations Associating for the Kind of

Change America Really Needs –

O.A.K.

Power Over Poverty Under Laws of

America Restored – POPULAR

Project Censored

Taxpayers Protection Alliance

The Third Degree

Whistleblower Support Fund