

August 24, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Justice Department request for data associated with Inauguration Day protests

remain significant Fourth and First Amendment issues. The warrant the government now seeks would still force DreamHost to disclose the IP addresses and content of email inquiries and comments submitted from numerous private email accounts associated with the website, not limited to information related to the individuals under investigation. The information yielded by this demand could allow the government to identify individuals engaged in constitutionally protected speech and dissent, as well as members of the news media and the public who simply participated in meetings or communicated with organizers whose email accounts are affiliated with the J20 website.

Furthermore, given that the government narrowed the scope of its demand only after DreamHost challenged the warrant in court, resulting in widespread public outcry and objection from privacy and civil liberties groups, questions remain over whether similar warrants exist that are not receiving the same level of public scrutiny generated by the DreamHost case. In addition, the Department maintains that its initial request was legal and appropriate, raising concerns that the Department might seek similar warrants in the future.

The Justice Department's actions in this case conflicted with core American values. Americans have a right to organize and assemble without fear of surveillance; they have a right to privacy; they have a right to dissent; and they have a right to petition their government without fear of persecution. Even in

Lawyers (NACDL)
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Lawyers Guild
National LGBTQ Task Force
Natural Resources Defense Council
New America's Open Technology Institute
New England First Amendment Coalition
New Jersey Progressive Democrats
Niskanen Center
OpenTheGovernment
Oregon Climate Action Now
OVEC-the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
PEN America
People For the American Way
Project On Government Oversight
Promotores Comunitarios del Desierto
Public Citizen
Public Justice Center

Rachel Carson Council
Restore The Fourth
RootsAction.org
Sciencecorps
Small Planet Institute
Society of Professional Journalists
Sunlight Foundation
TechFreedom
Treatment Action Group
Tully Center for Free Speech
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Unitarian Universalist Association
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press
Veterans For Peace
The Woodhull Freedom Foundation
Win Without War
X-Lab