

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 25, 2010

Investigate the Anthrax Letter Attacks
Support the Holt/Bartlett Amendment to H.R. 2701

Dear Colleague,

Last week, the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that it is formally closing its investigation of the 2001 anthrax letter attacks, commonly known as the “Amerithrax” investigation. Those attacks disrupted—and continue to disrupt—the lives and livelihoods of many of our constituents and yours.

We already know that the FBI too quickly jumped to conclusions about the nature and profile of the culprit or culprits and hastily identified two individuals. One later received a multimillion dollar settlement and apology for mistaken accusations. Indeed, this investigation was mishandled at multiple points, which is why a thorough, independent re-examination is so important. Given that samples of the strain of anthrax that was used in the attacks may have been supplied to foreign laboratories, we think it prudent to have the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community examine whether or not evidence of a potential foreign connection to the attacks was overlooked, ignored, or simply not passed along to the FBI.

The amendment we are offering today to the Fiscal Year 2010 Intelligence Authorization Act (H.R. 2701) will require the Inspector General of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to conduct a review of available information to determine if there is any credible evidence of a connection between a foreign entity and the 2001 anthrax attacks on the United States. The report would be unclassified with a classified annex and would go to the intelligence, foreign affairs, judiciary, and homeland security committees of the House and Senate.

To date, there has been no independent, comprehensive examination of the FBI’s conduct in this investigation, and a number of critical questions remain unanswered. Now that the FBI has arbitrarily closed this case it is imperative that a review occur. Our amendment will help us begin that independent examination of our government’s response to these attacks. We ask for your support of this amendment when it is on the floor later today.

Sincerely,



RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



ROSCOE BARTLETT
Member of Congress