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11 12 13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
14 15 16	IN RE MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY LETTER ISSUED TO  MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO COMPEL COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL SECURITY LETTER REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
17 18 19	FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO THE COURT'S ORDER DATED MAY 11, 2011
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	Case No. C 11 2173 SI  Memorandum in Support of Mation to Compel Compliance With National Security Letter

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#### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

National security and law enforcement investigations, by their very nature, require federal government officials to collect information, and courts have long recognized the ability of government agencies to collect information, particularly where authorized by law. This case concerns the government's collection of information under 18 U.S.C. § 2709, which is one of a number of statutes that authorize the government to collect information in service of a national security investigation. Pursuant to § 2709 and as part of an ongoing national security investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") served a National Security Letter ("NSL") -- a type of administrative subpoena -- on a wire and telephone service provider, The NSL sought narrow, specific, and limited information which § 2709 expressly authorizes the FBI to obtain: objected to the NSL and has petitioned this Court to set it aside. To date, has not complied with the NSL request for information. The FBI, however, has been unable to obtain the and it maintains a compelling need for the information in order to further an ongoing, authorized national security investigation. Congress provided for the government to seek the aid of a district court in precisely this situation, where an NSL recipient has failed to comply with a request for needed information. See 18 U.S.C. § 3511(c). Pursuant to that statute, on June 3, 2011, the government filed a civil action in this Court to enforce the NSL, including its request for information as well as its nondisclosure requirement. See Civ. No. 11-2667 SI (N.D. Cal.) (under seal). In this proceeding, the U.S. Department of Justice now also moves for an order compelling lto promptly respond to the NSL request for information. It is axiomatic that the government may require individuals to provide information in

It is axiomatic that the government may require individuals to provide information in service of, e.g., a law enforcement or national security investigation (as here), the raising of revenues, or the conduct of the census. The NSL is just such a classic and permissible request for information. Likewise, it is well-established that the government may seek the aid of a court to compel compliance with an administrative request for information as long as the agency is

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1	authorized to investigate it has committed with anniverble are codured requirements, and the
1	authorized to investigate, it has complied with applicable procedural requirements, and the
2	information requested is relevant to the underlying investigation. The NSL here easily meets this
3	standard. Moreover, it is not unreasonable, oppressive, or otherwise unlawful. To the contrary,
4	it is a highly specific, limited request for information issued pursuant to law that does not
5	infringe on statutory or constitutional rights.
6	This Court should, accordingly, order to comply with the NSL request for
7	information pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3511(c).
8	BACKGROUND <sup>1</sup>
9	I. Statutory Background
10	The President of the United States has charged the FBI with primary authority for
11	conducting counterintelligence and counterterrorism investigations in the United States. See
12	Exec. Order No. 12333 §§ 1.14(a), 3.4(a), 46 Fed. Reg 59941 (Dec. 4, 1981). The FBI's
13	experience with national security investigations has shown that electronic communications play a
14	vital role in advancing terrorist and foreign intelligence activities and operations. See Classified
15	Declaration of Mark F. Giuliano, Assistant Director of the FBI for the Counterterrorism Division
16	to be submitted ex parte and in camera to the Court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3511(e) and 28
17	C.F.R. § 17.17. <sup>2</sup> Accordingly, pursuing and disrupting, e.g., terrorist plots often requires the FB
18	to seek information relating to electronic communications.
19	Title 18 U.S.C. § 2709 was enacted by Congress 25 years ago to assist the FBI in
20	obtaining such information. Section 2709 empowers the FBI to issue an NSL, a type of
21	administrative subpoena. Subsections (a) and (b) of § 2709 authorize the FBI to request "sub-
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23	The relevant statutory and factual background is set forth in the government's memorandum in opposition to petition to set aside the NSL, filed under seal on July
24	22, 2011. The government respectfully incorporates that memorandum herein by reference.
25	<sup>2</sup> The government previously lodged Assistant Director Giuliano's classified declaration
26	with a Department of Justice Court Security Officer pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 17.17 and in support of the government's opposition to petition to set aside the NSL. The government has
27	also filed under seal and served or a redacted version the Giuliano Declaration that does
28	not contain classified information or other sensitive law enforcement information that cannot be shared with petitioner, as well as an unclassified summary of the declaration.

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scriber information" and "toll billing records information," or "electronic communication transactional records," from wire or electronic communication service providers. In order to issue an NSL, the Director of the FBI, or a senior-level designee, must certify that the information sought is "relevant to an authorized investigation to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities . . . ." *Id.* § 2709(b)(1)-(2). When an NSL is issued in connection with an investigation of a "United States person," the same officials must also certify that the investigation is "not conducted solely on the basis of activities protected by the first amendment . . . ." *Id.* 

Congress has provided that, "[i]n the case of a failure to comply with a request for" information by NSL pursuant to, *inter alia*, 18 U.S.C. § 2709(b), "the Attorney General may invoke the aid of any district court of the United States within the jurisdiction in which the investigation is carried on or the person or entity resides, carries on business, or may be found, to compel compliance with the request. The court may issue an order requiring the person or entity to comply with the request. Any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as contempt thereof." 18 U.S.C. § 3511(c). Conversely, upon a petition by an NSL recipient, a "court may modify or set aside the request [for information] if compliance would be unreasonable, oppressive, or otherwise unlawful."

#### II. Factual Background

During the course of an ongoing, authorized national security investigation, the FBI		
determined that it needed to		
The investigation is discussed in Assistant Director Giuliano's classified Declaration.		
Pursuant to § 2709, the FBI served		
petitioner with an NSL requesting		
The NSL served on petitioner was issued by the Acting Special Agent in Charge ("SAC")		
of the FBI's under the authority of 18 U.S.C. § 2709. See 2011 NSL		
(attached to the Petition). The Acting SAC certified, in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 2709(b),		
that the information sought was relevant to an authorized investigation to protect against		
international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities. <i>Id.</i> The NSL, dated 2011,		

1 sought only 2 The NSL notified petitioner that petitioner had a right to challenge the letter if compliance would be unreasonable, oppressive, or otherwise 3 4 illegal, under § 3511(a) and (b). On May 2, 2011 filed a petition to set aside the 2011 NSL, which it served on the FBI's 5 on May 4 and on the U.S. Attorney 6 for this District on May 11. On June 3, 2011, the Department of Justice brought a separate action in this Court to enforce compliance with the NSL. See Civ. No. 11-2667 SI (N.D. Cal.) (under 8 seal). 9 To date, the FBI has been unable to 10 Giuliano Decl. ¶ 35. The FBI continues to need that information to further 11 an ongoing national security investigation. *Id.* ¶¶ 7, 35. 12 **ARGUMENT** 13 I. Statutory Authority And Standard Of Review 14 An NSL is a type of administrative subpoena authorized by law, and "[t]he scope of the 15 judicial inquiry in an . . . agency subpoena enforcement proceeding is quite narrow." EEOC v. Children's Hosp. Med. Center, 719 F.2d 1426, 1428 (9th Cir. 1983) (en banc). The district court 16 17 should determine whether (1) "Congress has granted the [agency the] authority to investigate;" 18 (2) the "procedural requirements have been followed:" and (3) the evidence sought is "relevant and material to the investigation." Id. Once the agency has demonstrated these three factors, the 19 20 court should enforce the subpoena "unless the party being investigated proves the inquiry is 21 unreasonable because it is overbroad or unduly burdensome." Id. See also United States v. 22 Morton Salt Co., 338 U.S. 632, 652 (1950) (enforcement proper where "inquiry is within the 23 authority of the agency, the demand is not too indefinite and the information is reasonably 24 relevant"); Oklahoma Press Pub. Co. v. Walling, 327 U.S. 186, 208-09 (1946) (enforcement 25 proper where agency is authorized to make demand, demand is not too indefinite or broad, and materials sought are relevant).

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#### II. The NSL Served On Petitioner Complies With All Applicable Requirements.

Under the law of this Circuit and as set forth above, "courts must enforce administrative subpoenas unless the evidence sought by the subpoena [is] plainly incompetent or irrelevant to any lawful purpose of the agency." *EEOC v. Karuk Tribe Housing Authority*, 260 F.3d 1071, 1076-77 (9th Cir. 2001) (quoting *FMC v. Port of Seattle*, 521 F.2d 431, 433 (9th Cir. 1975), internal quotation marks and other citations omitted). As explained below, the 2011 NSL served on satisfies all of the applicable procedural and substantive requirements described *supra*.

## A. The FBI Is Authorized To Conduct National Security Investigations And To Issue National Security Letters.

As noted, the President has charged the FBI with primary authority for conducting counterintelligence and counterterrorism investigations in the United States, *see* Exec. Order No. 12333 §§ 1.14(a), 3.4(a), and such investigations often require the FBI to seek information relating to electronic communications, *see* Giuliano Decl. To assist the FBI in obtaining such information, 25 years ago Congress enacted 18 U.S.C. § 2709. Section 2709 empowers the FBI to issue NSLs such as the 2011 NSL served on as part of an ongoing, authorized national security investigation. The FBI is, therefore, authorized to conduct its underlying investigation here and to do so using, *inter alia*, the 2011 NSL.

B. The 2011 NSL Served On Complies With Applicable

1. Is An Electronic Communication Service Provider Subject To 18 U.S.C. § 2709.

Subsections (a) and (b) of § 2709 authorize the FBI to use an NSL in order to request certain information, including "subscriber information," from a "wire or electronic communication service provider." *Id.* § 2709(a). is a wire or electronic communication service provider and the proper recipient of an NSL pursuant to § 2709.

Section 2709 is contained in Title II of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), 18 U.S.C. §§ 2701 et seq. ECPA defines "electronic communication service" ("ECS") as any service that "provides to users thereof the ability to send or receive wire or electronic

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Procedural Requirements.

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As explained above, the NSL requests only
See 2011 NSL, attached to Petition. This is
precisely the type of information which Congress contemplated the FBI would seek by NSL,
see 18 U.S.C. § 2709(b)(1) (authorizing FBI to request by NSL "the name, address, length of
service, and local and long distance toll billing records of a person or entity."). Assistant
Giuliano's declaration establishes the relevancy of this limited information to the underlying
national security investigation, and so the narrow request is not overbroad. It is also difficult to
imagine how a request for information relating to a could place a serious burden
on the but, in any event, has not suggested there is such
a burden. Cf. Goodman v. United States, 369 F.2d 166, 169 (9th Cir. 1966). (Under Fed. R.
Crim. Proc. 17(c), "[t]he burden of showing that a subpoena is unreasonable and oppressive is
upon the party to whom it is directed.").
The NSL here is thus not overbroad or unduly burdensome; it is subject to enforcement
by this Court pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3511(c).
IV. The Request For Information In The Amendment. 2011 NSL Does Not Violate The First
As explained above, the NSL request for information satisfies all applicable standards for
enforcement under the law of this Circuit. "[T]he inquiry is within the authority of the agency,
the demand is not too indefinite and the information sought is reasonably relevant." See Morton
Salt Co., 338 U.S. at 652. In its petition to set aside the NSL, however, has argued that
the NSL information request is "otherwise unlawful" because it violates the First Amendment by
compelling speech, identifying or interfering with a right to anonymous
association. As explained in the government's opposition to petition, incorporated
herein by reference, and as explained further below, these arguments are meritless. Moreover,
the NSL request for information survives any applicable scrutiny under the First Amendment.

# A. The Request For Information In The 2011 NSL Is Narrowly Tailored To Serve A Compelling Government Interest.

As set forth in the classified Declaration of Mark F. Guiliano, the narrow request for information in the NSL is well tailored to serve the government's underlying and compelling legitimate interests. It therefore survives any applicable level of scrutiny under the First Amendment.

B. The Request For Information From Validly Applied To And Does Not Impinge On The Anonymous Speech Or Associational Rights Of

In the 2011 NSL, the FBI sought

unqualified right to conduct their affairs in secret").

relevant to an ongoing, authorized national security investigation. The NSL did not seek any information concerning the content of communications made by anyone. As explained in the classified Giuliano Declaration, the information requested is plainly relevant to the FBI's investigation and the FBI maintains a compelling need for the information. See Giuliano Decl. ¶ 7, 35. The request for information in the 2011 NSL does not run afoul of the First Amendment, including any recognized rights to anonymous speech and associational rights by petitioner or its Rather, it is fully consistent with the government's established authority to request or demand information to further law enforcement or national security investigations. Cf. Morton Salt Co., 338 U.S. at 652 (stating, in rejecting Fourth and Fifth Amendment challenge to government agency's request for information during

an investigation, that "neither incorporated nor unincorporated associations can plead an

## 1. The FBI's Request For Information In The NSL To Petitioner Does Not Impermissibly Compel Speech.

It is beyond dispute that "[a]mong the necessary and most important of the powers of the States as well as the Federal Government to assure the effective functioning of government in an ordered society is the broad power to compel residents to testify in court or before grand juries or agencies." Murphy v. Waterfront Comm'n of New York Harbor, 378 U.S. 52, 93-94 (1964).

Thus, courts have long recognized that "essential operations of government may require [compelled speech] for the preservation of an orderly society,-as in the case of compulsion to

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give evidence in court." W.V. State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette, 319 U.S. 624, 645 (1943) (Murphy, J., concurring). The requirement here that a telephone company and an electronic communication service provider provide limited information to the FBI as part of an ongoing national security investigation is no more unconstitutional than a requirement that a corporation comply with a validly-issued subpoena, that it provide certain information on its taxes, or that an individual respond to the census. See, e.g., Full Value Advisors, LLC v. S.E.C., 633 F.3d 1101, 1108-09 (D.C. Cir. 2011) (declining to apply heightened scrutiny and upholding requirement that corporation disclose certain information to the SEC); United States v. Sindel, 53 F.3d 874, 878 (8th Cir. 1995) (First Amendment not implicated by requirement of disclosure to IRS that entails no public dissemination of a political or ideological message); Morales v. Daley, 116 F. Supp. 2d 801, 816 (S.D. Tex. 2000) (census requirement that plaintiff provide information concerning his race was not improper compulsion of speech). Cf. Pharm. Care Mgmt. Ass'n v. Rowe, 429 F.3d 294, 316 (1st Cir. 2005) (the level of constitutional scrutiny of government-mandated disclosure requirements, even where the disclosure is broadcast beyond the government agency, is "akin to the general rational basis test governing all government regulations under the Due Process Clause"). Outside the protections afforded by the Fifth Amendment, which are not at issue here, there is simply no general "right to remain silent" in the face of a legitimate governmental inquiry, particularly where, as here, the inquiry is authorized by Congress and requires no public dissemination of any "speech" by petitioner. Full Value Advisors, 633 F.3d at 1108-09; see also Glickman v. Wileman Bros. & Elliot, 521 U.S. 457, 470-71 (1997) (compelled speech doctrine not implicated where regulation did not require commercial plaintiffs to publicly espouse an idea); Rounds v. Oregon State Bd. of Higher Educ., 166 F.3d 1032, 1037-38 (9th Cir. 1999) (compelled speech doctrine not implicated where no one" required to act as a courier for" or to endorse "an ideological message").

2. The 2011 NSL Served On Right To Anonymous Speech.

Does Not Impinge On The right to "anonymous" speech, but such a right is inapposite here. Even assuming can assert the right on behalf

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of its cases recognizing a right to anonymous speech under the First Amendment make it clear that the legally protected interest at stake is the right not to reveal one's identity when communicating what may be an unpopular message. See, e.g., McIntyre v. Ohio Elections Comm'n, 514 U.S. 334, 341-43 (1995). The primary rationale for protecting a speaker's identity is that revealing an individual's name attached to particular content could subject him to retaliation, which in turn could chill controversial or unpopular but protected speech. As the Supreme Court has noted, this chilling effect is most powerful if the speaker is forced to disclose his identity at the same time he is speaking. Thus, in Buckley v. American Const'l Law Foundation, 525 U.S. 182 (1999), the Supreme Court invalidated a Colorado statute requiring petition circulators to wear a badge displaying their names because "the badge requirement compels personal name identification at the precise moment when the circulator's interest in anonymity is greatest." Id. at 199. In McIntyre, 514 U.S. 334, also relied on by petitioner, the Court struck down a state statute prohibiting anonymous campaign literature. While noting that anonymity "is an aspect of the freedom of speech," id. at 342, the Court invalidated the statute because it was a "direct regulation of the content of speech" in which "the category of covered documents is defined by their content," id. at 345.

The NSL here, however, does not target the content of a communication.<sup>4</sup> And the in question will not, as the Court found objectionable in *Buckley v. Am.*Const'l Law Found., 525 U.S. 182, be linked publicly or at all to the content of any communication by petitioner's compliance with the NSL. Accordingly, *McIntyre* and similar cases involving direct regulation of First Amendment rights are inapplicable. The FBI's request for information as part of an ongoing, authorized national security investigation does not violate anyone's right to anonymous speech.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Nor, under the statute, could it 18 U.S.C. § 2709 does not permit the government to request the content of any communication via NSL, and the NSL in question specifically directs petitioner not to provide any such content. *Compare* 18 U.S.C. § 2703 (providing means by and procedural protections under which government may obtain the content of an electronic communication).

enforcement investigation is outweighed by "the substantial public interest" in that investigation. 1 2 Id. 3 **CONCLUSION** For all of the foregoing reasons, the Court should grant the government's motion and 4 to respond to the information request in the 2011 NSL.5 5 compel Respectfully submitted, Dated: July 29, 2011 6 7 TONY WEST Assistant Attorney General 8 MELINDA HAAG 9 United States Attorney ARTHUR R. GOLDBERG 10 SANDRA M. SCHRAIBMAN Assistant Directors, Federal Programs 11 Branch 12 /s/ Steven Y. Bressler STEVEN Y. BRESSLER D.C. Bar #482492 13 Trial Attorney U.S. Department of Justice 14 Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch P.O. Box 883 15 Washington, D.C. 20044 (202) 305-0167 16 Telephone: (202) 616-8470 Facsimile: Steven.Bressler@usdoj.gov 17 Counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 2011 NSL also imposed a nondisclosure requirement on <sup>5</sup>As noted *supra*, the pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2709(c). is complying with the nondisclosure 26 requirement while litigating it before this Court, and the government does not seek an order compelling compliance with that portion of the NSL in this action at this time. The Department 27 of Justice has separately sought such relief in related a civil action. See Civ. No. 11-2667 SI 28 (N.D. Cal.) (under seal). Case No. C 11 2173 SI

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