

**STATEMENT OF REP. STEVE COHEN**  
**HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2007**

As a testament to the productivity of the Judiciary Committee under the leadership of Chairman Conyers, we will be marking up nine important bills today. While I could comment on each of them, I note in particular H.R. 3773, the “Responsible Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed and Effective (RESTORE) Act of 2007.” I know that this bill will come under sharp criticism both from those who believe it goes too far in giving the government authority to conduct electronic surveillance and from those who believe that it goes too far in imposing checks and balances on the executive branch’s authority to conduct national security-related operations. While I do not know whether, in the long run, the RESTORE Act represents the best balance between giving our intelligence community the tools it needs to protect the country from security threats while staying true to our nation’s commitment to civil liberties, I do believe that it represents a workable compromise and an improvement over the existing law. Given that the Act expires in a little over two years, I urge critics to consider it with an open mind, to suggest how it can be improved, and to refrain from simply seeking to defeat it.