

March 31, 2018  
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about privacy. Vetting has been a theme for your administration from your campaign slogan of extreme vetting for outsiders to the complete lack of vetting for your cabinet officials. In September a travel ban added social media to the questions for visitors and yesterday a plan was released to expand this by a factor of twenty. Such invasions of privacy are inimical to a free society and reminiscent of the security regimes in Russia and China forty years ago which badly hurt those societies and chased their best and brightest to the west. In the shorter term there will be reciprocal demands making travel much more dangerous for many Americans. Even more immediately the US will continue to lose its central role in world business and science as people choose to go to freer places to collaborate.

*Please assure me that you will respect privacy.*

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our open society.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson