

May 24, 2019
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about state secrecy. Everyone tries to control what is said about them and the first amendment is our attempt to countervene this impulse for even the federal government. You have worked hard at secrecy with a litany of broken promises and law suits to block your financial records from scrutiny, loud attempts to tamp down on administration leaks, serious redactions to Mr Mueller's report and now a lengthy indictment of Mr Assange. You have also misled by revealing information piecemeal as with solicitation of leaks from Russia and Mr Assange, the infamous Nunes memo and your latest expansion of general Barr's declassification powers. Along with the rise of Fox News as a Republican mouthpiece and your verbal attacks on news agencies I worry that reporting will be stifled and the public left in the dark. Even here in California with one of the strongest shield laws there was a threat this month to press freedoms with an unjustified police grab of material from a journalist (Mr Carmody). Chief Scott has now apologized. It is time for you to do so. *Please assure me that you will drop charges against Mr Assange.*

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our vigorous free press.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson