



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

May 4, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I applaud your decision today not to release any photographs or video of the late Osama bin Laden. Satisfying skeptics is not worth inciting radicals or endangering our troops. Still, I know you believe as I do that the free flow of accurate information is not just a matter of good government, but a necessary part of our democracy.

With that in mind, the photographs of the operation to capture or kill bin Laden must be maintained and available at an appropriate time for scholars, historians and all citizens.

If you have not already considered doing so, may I suggest the administration hold and maintain these records under seal and that a review process be established - perhaps under the National Archives and Department of Defense - to release all relevant photographs as early as ten years from now, or at such time as the Commander-in-Chief determines their release would no longer endanger the lives of Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson".

Bill Nelson

