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RECENT CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF SURVEILLANCE ACT VIOLATES
CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

18TH Congressional District Green Party Candidate Sheldon Schafer stated today that the July, 2008, Presidential Signature of the revised Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act is a mistaken step away from Constitutional protection of individual privacy rights, guaranteed in the Fourth Amendment. Since creation of FISA 30 years ago, government surveillance of American citizens has required Court approval. This bill removes that protection, and is now Federal law. Any President will now be able to authorize surveillance of any American's telephone and internet communications. Courts may only review the process, without authority to stop surveillance. This revision was prompted by the revelation that for the past six years telecommunications companies have allowed government agents access to their records without court approval.

"No evidence of any kind exists that this violation of privacy has helped capture a terrorist or stop terrorist activities, that would not have been caught under the previous FISA law", said Schafer.

"Instead, the reason so many Democrats and Republicans support this bill seems to be to protect telecommunications companies from lawsuits. Telecommunications companies are large political campaign donors to many elected officials, and this is one of their payoff's. Once again, corporate domination of Congress comes at the expense of individual freedom. Weakening the Judiciary is not in the interest of the American people. If I am elected to Congress I will work to reverse this trend and emphasize American rights to privacy".

For more information contact the Candidate at 309-868-4028, website

Sheldon@schaferforcongress.info.