

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

COUNSELOR TO
THE CHIEF JUSTICE

October 2, 2017

Mr. Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. Ted Poe
Member of Congress
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. Mike Quigley
Member of Congress
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress
Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Connolly, Poe, Quigley, and Nadler:

Because the Chief Justice is busy with the current argument session, he asked me to respond to the letter you sent him last Friday, in which you urged the Court to provide live online access to audio of oral arguments in the case scheduled to be heard tomorrow, October 3.

The Chief Justice has worked throughout his tenure to make the Supreme Court's work more accessible to the public. The Court now posts its opinions online simultaneously with their announcement, posts oral argument transcripts as soon as possible following the argument, and posts audio recordings of those same arguments by the end of the week. I am also pleased to call your attention to the Court's announcement on August 3, 2017, regarding the upcoming launch on November 13, 2017, of an electronic filing system that will make virtually all filings accessible online, without cost, to the public and legal community.

The Chief Justice appreciates and shares your ultimate goal of increasing public transparency and improving public understanding of the Supreme Court. I am sure you are, however, familiar with the Justices' concerns surrounding the live broadcast or streaming of oral arguments, which could adversely affect the character and quality of the dialogue between the attorneys and Justices. Consequently, the Court is unable to accommodate your request.

The Court will continue to examine ways in which it can enhance the public's understanding of its operations, while preserving the integrity of its proceedings. On behalf of the Chief Justice, I thank you for your interest in the Court's work.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey P. Minear