

September 13, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Chairman
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar, Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee and Rules and Administration
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6325

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Klobuchar,

Today, a news item appeared in POLITICO titled “SENATE RULES: BLACKBURN'S CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS A-OK.”¹ For this article, there was no attribution, no written statement, no item on the Senate Rules Committee website. And EPIC, which had initially raised concerns about closed-door hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee, was never notified of any decision. According to the POLITICO story, an unnamed staff person told a reporter that they had decided the Tech Task Force was not subject to the open meeting requirement.

This saga increasingly resembles a Kafka short story.²

We therefore write again to request a written response to our August 1, 2019 and September 11, 2019 letters for an investigation into the conduct of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s “Tech Task Force,” which we believe violate the Senate Rules of Procedure concerning open meetings, public notice, and recording of Committee meetings.³

Open meetings, public notice, and hearing records are central to the integrity of the United States Senate. We fully intend to pursue this issue until there is a favorable resolution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Marc Rotenberg
Marc Rotenberg, President
EPIC

¹ Alexandra Levine, *Senate Rules: Blackburn's Closed-Door Sessions A-Ok*, POLITICO Morning Tech (Sept. 13, 2019), <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-tech/2019/09/13/silicon-valley-survives-latest-debate-uncathed-477488>.

² Franz Kafka, *Before the Law* (“The man from the country has not expected such difficulties: the law should always be accessible for everyone, he thinks, . . .”), <https://www.kafka-online.info/before-the-law.html>

³ Letter from EPIC to Chairman Roy Blunt and Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar, S. Comm. and Rules and Administration (Aug. 1, 2019), <https://epic.org/privacy/EPIC-SRC-SJCTechTaskForce-Aug2019.pdf>; Letter from EPIC to Chairman Roy Blunt and Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar, S. Comm. and Rules and Administration (Sept. 11, 2019), <https://epic.org/privacy/policy/EPIC-SRC-9-11-2019.pdf>.