

## **An open letter to President Obama**

**Mr. President:**

***I have been your supporter through both elections, and for good reason: we agree on nearly every issue- matters that I believe are very important for our country and a vast majority of the people in it.***

***I have also supported you for what I believed were your principles and your intent: to restore the American rights, freedom, and system of justice, and to conduct our foreign policy toward more peaceful relations with the rest of the world.***

***I still believe you desire those goals, and I understand the impediments. But you are veering off course.***

***Truth is what makes trust possible. It makes justice possible. It makes democracy possible, because without it, the people cannot make informed decisions. We must be able to trust those we elect to give us honest facts. The people should not need to make extraordinary effort to discover them.***

***A certain amount of temporary secrecy is understandable and acceptable, but secrecy about matters which the people, through their representatives, must be able to approve or disapprove, and about which we must be able to directly express our opinions-- that secrecy is unacceptable.***

***When it happens that such matters are kept from us, our free press, and those who value truth and the right of the people to know it, provide an extremely valuable service to the American people.***

***Individuals like Edward Snowden and Bradley Manning are indeed heroes of truth. A government with a leader who stands for the truth should never engage in retribution. It should honor and protect those who reveal the truth to the people, and who give their government the opportunity to correct the deception, to eliminate the wrongdoing that was exposed, and to honestly apologize to the people, which is the only pathway to regain their trust.***

***All charges should be dropped against both Manning and Snowden, and any attempt to charge Julian Assange or to suppress Wikileaks should cease as well.***

**- cosmicrat June 25, 2013**