



## CATO: Senator from the Constitution

By Nat Hentoff - 12/18/12

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In my more than 60 years of reporting on Congress, I have always focused on truly independent members who, regardless of party, are faithful to the Constitution. For years, an especially insistent example has been Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon.

In "[The Wyden Holdup: A Liberal's Firm Stand](#)," Roll Call's Tim Starks gets right to Wyden's authentic Americanism as our individual liberties keep disappearing:

"The Oregon Democrat has become the Senate's hardest line to cross on civil liberties issues in the national security arena ...He has been among a small handful of Democratic senators seeking the Obama administration's legal justification for the targeted killing of U.S. citizens suspected of being overseas terrorists, requests he said have gone unfulfilled" ([Roll Call, Nov. 28](#)).

And when the utterly misnamed Patriot Act was up for reauthorization in 2006, Wyden voted against it, along with nine other Democratic senators.