

You Might Be a Terrorist, Too

[Radley Balko](#) | February 2, 2011

[Cato's David Rittgers](#) rounds up cases of terrorist "fusion centers" erring on the side of labeling, well, pretty much everyone, a potential terrorist.

The North Texas Fusion System [labeled Muslim lobbyists](#) as a potential threat; a DHS analyst in Wisconsin thought [both pro- and anti-abortion activists](#) were worrisome; a Pennsylvania homeland security contractor watched [environmental activists, Tea Party groups, and a Second Amendment rally](#); the Maryland State Police put [anti-death penalty and anti-war activists](#) in a federal terrorism database; a fusion center in Missouri thought that [all third-party voters and Ron Paul supporters](#) were a threat; and the Department of Homeland Security described [half of the American political spectrum](#) as "right wing extremists."

The ACLU fusion center [report](#) and [update](#) lay out some good background on these issues, and the [Spyfiles report](#) describes how monitoring lawful dissent has become routine for police departments around the nation.

I believe this is the part where right wingers justify including anti-war and environmental groups on these lists, and left wingers justify including Tea Partiers, anti-abortion activists, and Second Amendment advocates.