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TechNet
The Voice of the Innovation Economy

July 27, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Christopher Coons
United States Senate
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Hatch and Coons,

We write to express our support for your continued leadership on efforts to reform our outdated privacy laws.

Our world is increasingly connected through information technology in ways that allow individuals and organizations to communicate, collaborate, and conduct commerce across territorial and jurisdictional boundaries. Cloud computing services, in particular, have revolutionized global commerce, increasing efficiency, lowering cost, and enabling innovative new products and services across every sector of industry. Cloud services now support nearly every aspect of daily life, from mobile banking and online commerce to high-tech manufacturing and the Internet of Things. To sustain and advance these innovations and the global collaboration they enable, cloud services increasingly operate on a global basis.

Companies operating in this environment increasingly face the challenge of complying with multiple, often conflicting, privacy laws and regulations. These conflicts undermine the confidence of users in information technology products and services, while simultaneously creating obstacles to law enforcement professionals in investigating and prosecuting criminal activity.

For that reason, we believe that U.S. laws governing privacy and law enforcement access to data must be updated to address the realities of our connected world. The newly introduced International Communications Privacy Act (ICPA) modernizes the U.S. approach to these challenges, while striking a delicate balance between citizens' inviolable privacy rights and the law enforcement community's imperatives for gathering evidence in support of legitimate criminal investigations. The legislation reinforces that U.S. law enforcement must obtain a warrant for any electronic content for U.S. persons, settles uncertainty around obtaining such information for foreign nationals, and augments international

rule of law by establishing a multilateral framework for processing law enforcement requests for communications.

This legislation is a valuable contribution to efforts to modernize our privacy laws to reflect current realities. Reinforcing international cooperative approaches that respect privacy while supporting effective law enforcement are vital in sustaining our ability to compete globally and create jobs in the United States. For that reason, we look forward to working with you and your colleagues in Congress to pass ICPA as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your leadership on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Act | The App Association
BSA | The Software Alliance
Computers & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Internet Association
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
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Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA)
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