

May 6, 2015

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
United States Senate

Minority Leader Harry Reid
United States Senate

Speaker John Boehner
United States House of Representatives

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives

Chairman Charles Grassley
Senate Judiciary Committee

Chairman Bob Goodlatte
House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Richard Burr
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Chairman Devin Nunes
House Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We the undersigned companies, industry associations, and civil society organizations write to express our support for the USA FREEDOM Act (S. 1123; H.R. 2048), legislation that enhances privacy rights, transparency, and accountability.

Critically, the USA FREEDOM Act prohibits bulk collection of individuals' private data under the PATRIOT Act. The bill also makes some reforms to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC), and requires disclosure of important FISC rulings, a measure that will inhibit the development of "secret law" and increase accountability. Finally, the bill facilitates transparency by requiring greater government reporting regarding surveillance activities, and permitting expanded reporting by private entities receiving foreign intelligence surveillance demands.

The USA FREEDOM Act is not as comprehensive or protective of civil liberties as we would prefer, but we believe the bill would significantly improve the status quo. We urge Congress to consider USA FREEDOM to be but one step towards reform, and to stay committed to addressing other issues of overbroad surveillance in the future.

With Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act set to expire in just 26 days, we believe the USA FREEDOM Act offers an effective path forward. The USA FREEDOM Act allows Congress to support privacy and civil liberties while also preserving targeted intelligence capabilities. We urge Congress to swiftly pass this legislation without weakening it.

Sincerely,

Access
American Association of Law Libraries
American Library Association

Association of Research Libraries
Center for Democracy & Technology
Center for National Security Studies
CloudFlare
Competitive Enterprise Institute
Computer & Communications Industry Association
The Constitution Project
Global Network Initiative
Human Rights Watch
The Internet Association
Internet Infrastructure Coalition
Mozilla
New America's Open Technology Institute
The Niskanen Center
PEN American Center
R Street Institute
Rapid7
Reform Government Surveillance
Rutherford Institute
ServInt
Silent Circle, LLC
Sonic
TechFreedom
World Press Freedom Committee