

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 24, 2019

The Honorable Joseph J. Simons
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Simons and Chairman Pai:

We write to urge the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to broadly investigate the sale of Americans' location data by wireless carriers, location aggregators, and other third parties.

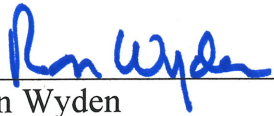
Last year, multiple news reports highlighted the fact that the four major wireless carriers, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon, sold their customers' location data to approximately seventy companies, without the explicit knowledge or consent of their customers. After significant negative press coverage, the wireless industry pledged to end these business practices. A recent investigation published by *Motherboard*, however, demonstrated not only that the wireless carriers are still failing to protect their customers' private information, but also that location data can be purchased by stalkers, domestic abusers, and others. It is clear that these wireless carriers have failed to regulate themselves or police the practices of their business partners, and have needlessly exposed American consumers to serious harm.

To that end, we urge the FTC and the FCC to conduct broad investigations, as appropriate, into the business partnerships between wireless carriers and location aggregators, including resellers and all downstream buyers of location data. Specifically, your agencies should determine whether wireless carriers or aggregators knew, or should have known, that failing to demand and verify subscriber consent would result in individuals obtaining location data without the respective subscriber's knowledge or consent. We also ask your agencies to require the wireless carriers to notify every American whose location they shared or sold and to identify to those subscribers the specific companies that obtained their location information.


Americans expect that their location data will be protected. The wireless industry has repeatedly demonstrated a blatant disregard for its customers' privacy. It is therefore vital

that regulators take swift action to ensure that consumers are protected. Please respond to this letter by February 5, 2019.

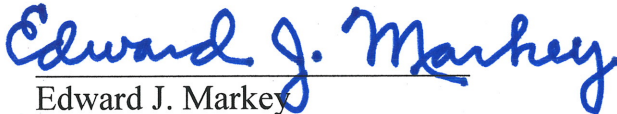
Sincerely,



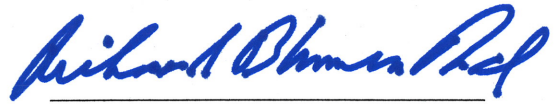
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



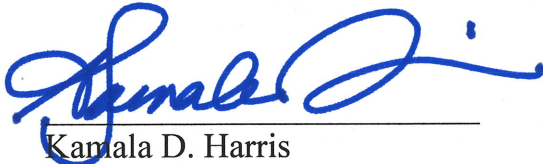
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



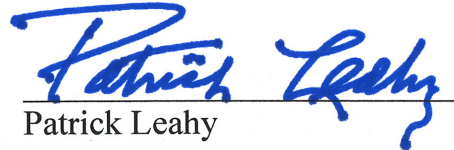
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



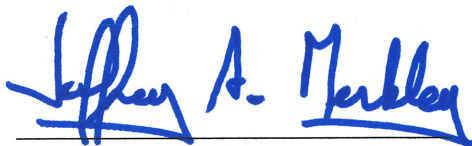
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



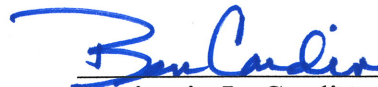
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



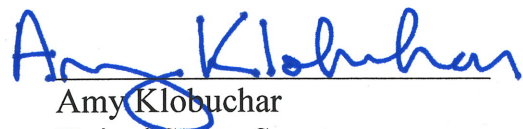
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Jack Reed

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Tina Smith

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator