

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