

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives

September 30, 2013

We the undersigned are writing to ask that the Senate and House Judiciary Committees quickly move forward to consider legislation that would provide greater transparency around national security–related requests by the US government to Internet, telephone, and web-based service providers for information about their users and subscribers.

Specifically, we write to voice our strong support for S. 1452, the Surveillance Transparency Act of 2013, and H.R. 3035, the Surveillance Order Reporting Act of 2013, each of which would clarify that companies have the right to publish basic statistics about the government demands for user data that they receive. We urge the Committees to hold hearings on the issue of surveillance transparency as a prelude to the markup of these bills.

Many of the undersigned organizations and companies previously wrote a letter to you and other leaders in Congress and the Administration on July 18th,<sup>1</sup> asking for legislation that would require more comprehensive transparency reporting by the government and allow for more comprehensive transparency reporting by US companies that receive national security–related information requests. We are thankful that Senator Franken, working with eleven cosponsors including Chairman Leahy, and Representative Lofgren, as part of a bipartisan coalition of nine cosponsors including Ranking Member Conyers and Representatives Poe and Chaffetz, were able to so quickly respond to the pressing need for more transparency around the US government’s national security surveillance efforts. Such transparency is important not only for the American people, who are entitled to have an informed public debate about the appropriateness of that surveillance, but also for international users of US-based service providers who are concerned about privacy and security.

We very much look forward to working with the sponsors of S. 1452 and H.R. 3035 to ensure that the goals of those pieces of legislation, and the goals stated in our previous letter, are fully aligned. For example, the Senate bill provides for significant public reporting by the government itself, as requested in our previous letter, and we would welcome the addition of such provisions to the House bill. Similarly, as we had previously requested, the House bill provides for reporting by companies on their receipt of National Security Letters (NSLs) as well as requests under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), and we would strongly support inclusion of a similar provision regarding NSLs in the Senate bill, consistent with Chairman Leahy’s longstanding and much appreciated support for NSL reform.

In conclusion, we are eager to assist your Committees in taking prompt action around these critically important bills, and to share our views as other bills are introduced or move through the Committees. We look forward to working together to achieve passage of legislation that will ensure the level of transparency necessary to appropriately inform the American public and preserve the trust of Internet users around the world.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of that letter, updated to reflect additional companies and organizations that have joined the coalition effort since it was first sent, is attached.

Thank you.

Companies & Investors

AOL  
Apple Inc.  
Automattic Inc. (WordPress.com)  
Boston Common Asset Management  
CloudFlare  
CREDO Mobile  
Data Foundry, Inc.  
Domini Social Investments LLC  
DreamHost  
Dropbox  
DuckDuckGo  
Facebook  
Floor64  
Foursquare  
Golden Frog  
Google  
LinkedIn  
Meetup  
Microsoft  
Mozilla  
Reddit  
Personal Democracy Media  
SpiderOak  
Tumblr  
Twilio  
Twitter  
Union Square Ventures  
Yahoo

Nonprofit Organizations & Trade Organizations

Access  
AIDS Policy Project  
American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Library Association  
American Society of News Editors  
Association of Research Libraries  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law School  
BSA | The Software Alliance  
Competitive Enterprise Institute  
Computer & Communications Industry Association  
The Constitution Project  
Consumer Action  
Defending Dissent Foundation  
Demand Progress  
Digital Liberty Project at Americans for Tax Reform  
DownsizeDC.org  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Engine Advocacy  
First Amendment Coalition  
Foundation for Innovation and Internet Freedom  
Freedom House  
Freedom of the Press Foundation  
Freedom to Read Foundation  
Global Network Initiative  
Information Technology and Innovation Foundation  
The Internet Association  
Internet Infrastructure Coalition  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition  
National Coalition Against Censorship  
NetChoice  
New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute  
New York Tech Meetup  
OpenTheGovernment.org  
Project On Government Oversight  
Public Citizen  
Public Knowledge  
Reporters without Borders  
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press  
Software & Information Industry Association  
TechFreedom  
TechNet  
WITNESS