



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Via Email

December 13, 2017

Director Christopher Wray
Federal Bureau of Investigations
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

Widespread reports allege that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) received millions of comments in its net neutrality rule-making that were submitted under fraudulent or stolen identities. The Commission has stated that more than 7 million comments used temporary email addresses and more than 400,000 came from a single address in Russia. Yet the Commission has failed to address the public's concern about the soundness of its regulatory comment process.

I have received complaints from numerous Illinois consumers who have identified comments submitted to the FCC that used their names and addresses without their consent. They are alarmed that their identity was used to voice an opinion to influence public policy without their consent and that the government agency in charge of that process has not been responsive to their concerns. I am equally alarmed. As the Attorney General of the State of Illinois, it is my responsibility to protect the public interest by ensuring that Illinois consumers have access to a transparent and open government. Federal law enforcement authorities should investigate the claims of these consumers to determine whether a broader effort to diminish public participation has occurred and whether consumers may have been the victim of identity theft related to this campaign on ending net neutrality.

I urge the FBI to investigate the source of these fraudulent comments to both uncover how the fraudulent comments were submitted and to inform an assessment of additional security steps the FCC could take to protect the reliability of its public comment system. The FCC has expressed some willingness to cooperate with law enforcement on this matter, and I encourage you to accept their offer. To assist with your investigation I am prepared to share with you the

reports I have received from Illinois consumers who allege that their information was used without their authorization. Please identify to whom these reports should be sent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Madigan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

LISA MADIGAN
Illinois Attorney General