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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Thank you for your continued attention to the issue of mobile device theft. July 1 marked the compliance date for the Smartphone Anti-Theft Voluntary Commitment as well as the implementation of the California and Minnesota laws. While industry groups have said that they are in compliance, I urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to remain diligent and to continue working on ways to combat smartphone theft.

By installing "kill switches" on smartphones we are deterring theft. The Consumer Reports National Research Center recently found that 2.1 million Americans had their phones stolen last year. While this is still a significant number, this is a 32 percent decrease from 2013. Additionally, places like New York City and San Francisco have also seen decreasing rates of stolen iPhones since Apple first began installing anti-theft protections. While I am pleased that so much progress is being made, I will continue to fight for consumers and their safety in Congress.

I applaud the partnerships between industry and law enforcement to educate consumers about how to protect themselves and their information and am encouraged by CTIA's commitment to continuing these efforts. Additionally, I applaud the work that the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has done in identifying additional ways for the industry to protect consumers. I urge the industry and the Commission to act on some of the TAC's additional recommendations, including exploring option to have unique identifiers on mobile devices to help track stolen phones.

We need to continue to ensure that manufacturers and carriers are compliant with the voluntary agreement and state laws. I hope the FCC will not let this issue rest and will continue to make progress and I offer my assistance in these endeavors. Please feel free to contact my office with any updates as you continue your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

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WTB

Spectrum
Commercial
Wireless



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 20, 2015

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter acknowledging the Commission's and the Technical Advisory Committee's (TAC) ongoing work to combat mobile device theft and urging us to continue building upon the progress already made. Your attention to and leadership on this issue play a critical role in encouraging stakeholders to address this problem and protect consumers.

I want to assure you that we will continue to make progress on this important issue. In April of this year, I requested that the TAC's Mobile Device Theft Prevention Working Group (Working Group) focus its work on three specific issues:

1. Making recommendations to expand and improve use of on-device features like the ability to lock, wipe, or restore a device remotely (all of which are components of the "kill switch" approach you mention in your letter);
2. Assessing whether and how to harden unique smart-device identification numbers to prevent them from being "wiped" from stolen phones; and
3. Identifying the key characteristics of an effective stolen phones database that could be used to prevent stolen devices from accessing networks.

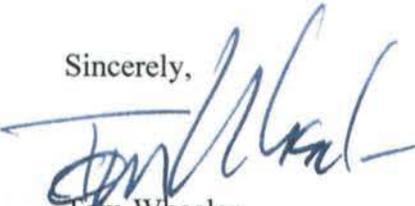
On June 11, 2015, the Working Group presented recommendations related to on-device features, including a recommendation that these features be activated on an "opt-out" basis. That same day, I called on the wireless industry to voluntarily support the Working Group's opt-out recommendation, under which theft-prevention features would be activated on all mobile phones by default and require consumers to take affirmative steps to disable them. We continue to work closely with industry stakeholders to ensure that they implement this recommendation promptly on a nationwide basis. The Working Group is continuing to assess the other issues I identified in April, and it intends to issue recommendations related to a stolen phones database in October.

While we also are pleased to see the declining stolen phone figures you highlight in your letter, we agree that cell phone theft continues to be a real and significant problem for consumers across the country. Greater action by and collaboration among industry, law enforcement and consumers is necessary to ensure the safety of all Americans who use these devices. I am pleased with the valuable steps industry has already taken and their commitment to continue to

make improvements consistent with the Working Group's recommendations. We will continue to work directly with the Working Group and industry as a whole to ensure they meet their commitments.

I appreciate your ongoing interest and leadership in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler