

August 5, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Last month, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a Declaratory Ruling and Order to protect consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts. These disruptive communications are the number one consumer grievance to the FCC, totaling more than 215,000 complaints in 2014 alone. Consumers have made it clear they do not want these calls and texts to invade their privacy and disrupt their lives.

The FCC correctly responded to these complaints and simplified the ways in which consumers can stop unwanted robocalls and robotexts. The FCC also gave phone companies the ability to offer customers “Do Not Disturb” technology that will allow consumers to block autodialed calls and texts. We strongly support these measures that will help Americans protect their privacy and minimize annoying telemarketing calls and texts.

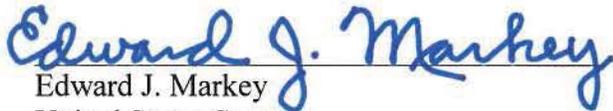
Now that the FCC has adopted the Declaratory Ruling and Order, more work remains to ensure that the Commission’s new rules are as effective as possible. First, the FCC should work with carriers and industry associations to help facilitate the development of effective “Do Not Disturb” technologies that can block robocalls and robotexts to consumers’ wireless and wireline phones. This technology should be developed and deployed as quickly as possible and it should be offered to all consumers at no additional cost. The right to privacy should not be considered a luxury feature. It is also critical that “Do Not Disturb” technology does not inadvertently block public safety notifications or calls and texts that consumers wish to receive.

Second, the FCC and phone companies should make consumers aware of “Do Not Disturb” technology and their right to opt out of telemarketing communications. The FCC and carriers should disseminate resources widely that explain how consumers can prevent unwanted robocalls and robotexts on both wireless and landline phones. This information should be presented in a simple, transparent and easily accessible manner through a public awareness raising campaign.

We respectfully request that you provide answers to the following questions: How does the FCC plan to work with phone companies to develop and institute the adoption of “Do Not Disturb” technologies? How will the FCC work with phone companies to inform and educate consumers about the new tools (both “Do Not Disturb” technology and simplified ways to stop telemarketing calls) that the FCC recently approved?

We thank the FCC for its attention to this important issue for American consumers, and we look forward to working with the Commission to strengthen consumers' ability to protect their privacy and block unwanted calls and texts. Please respond to this letter by August 25, 2015.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



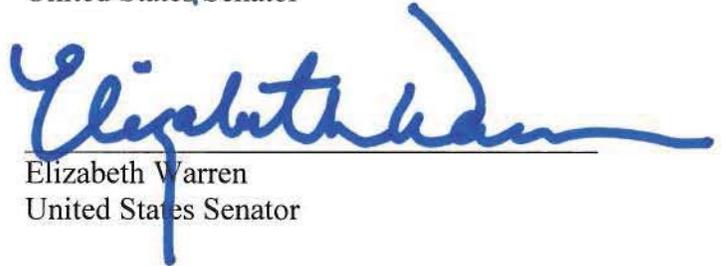
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 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 of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
107 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
C2 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2015, regarding the Telephone Consumer Protection Act Declaratory Ruling and Order the Commission adopted last month. We appreciate your commitment to protecting consumers from unwanted telemarketing calls and texts, a commitment which we at the Commission share. As your letter correctly notes, unwanted disruptive and privacy-invading robocalls are the leading source of consumer complaints to the FCC. Our action in July embraces and encourages both regulatory and private sector approaches to curb these abuses and makes clear in particular that phone companies may implement robocall blocking technologies.

The Commission plans to work with phone companies to encourage adoption of robocall blocking technologies and to inform and educate consumers about these technologies. This will be an ongoing collaborative process that is reactive to consumer demand, technological advances, and market realities. It will begin, however, with our Robocall and Caller ID Spoofing Workshop, to be held on September 16, 2015. Attached, you will find the Public Notice announcing this workshop and providing further information. It is our hope and anticipation that this workshop will encourage phone companies to adopt robocall blocking technologies and to inform their customers of the availability of those technologies.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler