



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

December 21, 2015

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

RE: Twilio Petition: WT Docket No. 08-7

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Since our founding in 1975, the National Association of Neighborhoods has advocated for improved economic, social, environmental, health, and safety conditions in America's neighborhoods. Today's communications technologies touch on all these conditions. Communications plays an important role in maintaining safe neighborhoods but if the wrong public policies are implemented, communications technology could be used to unwittingly deprive our citizens of privacy or expose them to fraudulent activity.

Recently, a text messaging company, Twilio, requested that the Federal Communications Commission apply telephone laws, meant for 20th century voice services, to today's text messaging services. Specifically, Twilio wants the Commission to prohibit wireless carriers from discriminating against or blocking messages delivered by third-party text messaging companies. We believe granting Twilio's request would expose our membership to unwanted spam, and unsafe or fraudulent messaging.

While we do not advocate the blocking of text messages, we do believe that there is a growing risk of unwanted and harmful messages reaching our members and that one of the best ways to counter spam or fraudulent activity is to allow wireless companies to apply filtering technology to text messages. Text messaging is increasingly popular because of its convenience and level of trust. Unfortunately, this medium can be used by some parties to scam consumers, send inappropriate messages, or bombard inboxes with unwanted promotions.

The Commission has the opportunity to better protect citizens without implementing unnecessary regulation of wireless carriers by allowing wireless carriers to filter messages. This is the best approach for the communications needs and safety of our neighborhoods.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Executive Director

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