

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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Caller ID  
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January 25, 2012

Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

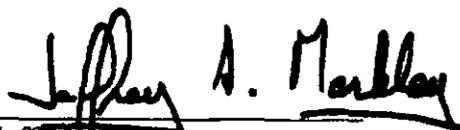
Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I am deeply concerned about recent reports concerning fraudulent use of caller ID technology and I urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to investigate abuses of caller ID. Caller ID is a useful service that consumers pay for and those abusing it should be prosecuted under current law.

*The New York Times* recently reported on the dramatic increase of caller ID "spoofing," or callers that misrepresent themselves on caller ID. As reported in the article, states and the Federal Trade Commission receive thousands of complaints each year about spoofing, and the number of complaints is growing dramatically each year. This practice is illegal under current law – callers must accurately identify themselves or the company they are calling on behalf of. However, technology exists which allows these laws to be circumvented. These false caller ID claims are not only irritating to consumers, but they undermine the purpose of caller ID, a service the customer has paid for in order to accurately identify the caller.

Caller ID spoofing is an invasion of personal privacy for commercial reasons and should not be tolerated. Moreover, these misleading tactics can potentially lure consumers into giving away personal and financial information and can even enable abusive partners to stalk and harass their victims. I ask that you enforce the Truth in Caller ID Act and the FCC caller ID rules for telemarketers to the fullest extent of the law, so that citizens' privacy can be respected.

Sincerely,



Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 5, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
313 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to investigate caller ID complaints and enforce the Truth in Caller ID Act and the Commission's caller ID rules. Malicious spoofing of caller identification information poses a serious threat to consumers. I want to assure you that the Commission actively reviews caller ID spoofing complaints and will take enforcement action when appropriate.

The Truth in Caller ID Act has given the Commission new authority to bring enforcement actions against caller ID spoofers acting with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value. The Commission adopted rules implementing the Act in June 2011. The Commission's staff works closely with its partners in law enforcement – particularly state attorneys general – to identify potential targets and coordinate enforcement activities.

As required by the Act, the Commission also submitted a report to Congress in June 2011 that includes recommendations for consideration by Congress. I am enclosing a copy of this report for your information.

I appreciate your interest in this matter and look forward to working further with you and other Members of Congress to help ensure the privacy and safety of consumers. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", written over a long horizontal line.

Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 5, 2012

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

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

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to investigate caller ID complaints and enforce the Truth in Caller ID Act and the Commission's caller ID rules. Malicious spoofing of caller identification information poses a serious threat to consumers. I want to assure you that the Commission actively reviews caller ID spoofing complaints and will take enforcement action when appropriate.

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Sincerely,

Julius Genachowski