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May 28, 2010

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Mr. Eric Schmidt Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Google, Inc. 1600 Amphitheater Parkway Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

I write about recent reports that Google's camera-equipped "Street View" cars collected private content sent over open wireless networks while mapping the locations of those access points.

As you know, this Committee oversees the enforcement of federal wiretap, computer access, and electronic communications privacy laws. One of our goals is to safeguard the privacy of American citizens by conducting oversight over the relevant federal agencies.

It has come to our attention that Google's collection of this data may be the subject of a number of federal and state inquiries. Accordingly, the Committee asks that Google, Inc., retain the data collected by its Street View cars, as well as any records related to the collection of such data, until such time as review of this matter is complete. We also ask that Google, Inc., implement any safeguards necessary to prevent further dissemination of this information.

I appreciate the assistance your company has provided the Committee in the past, and I look forward to your cooperation in this and other future matters. Thank you for your attention to the privacy interests of our citizens.

Sincerely,

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The Honorable Lamar Smith