

March 15, 2013

Board of Directors

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte Chairman

The Honorable John Conyers Ranking Member

Christian Dawson

Co-Founder & Board Chair COO, ServInt

House Committee on the Judiciary 2138 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Representative Convers:

Launched in 2012, the Internet Infrastructure Coalition (i2Coalition) is comprised of key players representing U.S. Internet infrastructure providers and related tech firms that help enable web hosting and cloud services. The i2Coalition supports the trailblazing enterprises that make significant private investments and drive innovation for the "nuts and bolts" of the Internet – including web hosting and data center providers, independent software vendors and service delivery and cloud enablement technology providers. These infrastructure services help millions of small to medium sized businesses across the United States - from farmers in Kansas to fisherman and women on the coasts – to be able to build and maintain a web presence, and to sell their products and services over the Internet. We are dedicated to educating policy makers, opinion leaders and the media about critical issues related to the infrastructure supporting the Internet, sharing best practices among our members and promoting the economic benefits that our industry delivers.

Enacted in 1986, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) specified standards for law enforcement agencies' access to electronic communications and associated data, affording important privacy protections to subscribers of emerging wireless and Internet technologies. Technology has advanced dramatically since 1986, and the statute is in need of significant revision.

The i2Coalition supports a warrant requirement for all government searches of email and other electronic communications. This provision would establish consistent privacy protections regarding how information may be accessed by law enforcement. Information, regardless of whether it is in transit, received or in storage, should be afforded the same privacy protection. Further, a strict warrant requirement for accessing contents of electronic communications will create a clear rule, allowing easier and more consistent compliance by providers and law enforcement.

Any proposed revision to the current legislation should *ensure that traditional constitutional* guarantees of due process are upheld. The fourth amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, along with requiring a warrant supported by probable cause. Requiring a government entity to obtain a warrant for the disclosure of electronic communications is not only common sense, but it is also a constitutional guarantee.

Our leaders in Washington need to protect American innovation to maintain the United States' competitive economic advantage around the globe. The United States is by far and away the largest provider of cloud computing resources. The use of the cloud is increasing exponentially due to its cost benefits, security, flexibility and the ability to allow users to share and collaborate. The inconsistency in our current legislation actually disincentivizes international companies from utilizing American cloud computing storage and services. By providing a clear and consistent policy on privacy and due process, we are supporting American innovation and



competitiveness around the world.

Most Internet infrastructure providers are small to medium sized businesses, yet we are a huge economic engine in the United States generating an estimated direct and indirect \$46 billion in annual revenue with a trade flow to our country of \$9.2 billion. The nearly 60 members of the i2Coalition strongly urge Congress to establish a clear and standard set of privacy protections for all types of electronic communications. This will uphold the traditional constitutional guarantees of due process for all of our customers and ensure that we are not stifling American competitiveness and innovation overseas.

Sincerely,

Christian Dawson

Co-Founder & Chairman

i2Coalition

cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee