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April 27, 2011

Mr. Steve Jobs
Chief Executive Officer
Apple, Inc.
1 Infinite Loop
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Mr. Jobs:

I write to urge Apple, Inc., to accept the invitation of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology and the Law, to appear at the Subcommittee's May 10, 2011, hearing on "*Protecting Mobile Privacy: Your Smartphones, Tablets, Cell Phones and Your Privacy.*" Like many Americans, I read with deep concern recent press reports indicating that Apple's iOS 4 mobile operating system (iPhone) collects, stores, and tracks user location data without the user's consent. As Congress considers updates to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and other Federal privacy laws, it is essential that the Senate Judiciary Committee have full and accurate information about the privacy risks posed by this new technology.

The collection and storage of sensitive location information has serious implications regarding the privacy rights and personal safety of American consumers. I am particularly troubled that Apple's iPhone continues to collect and store user location information even when the location service is disabled by the user, according to a recent report by *The Wall Street Journal*. I am also troubled by reports that this sensitive location information is stored in an unencrypted format, making the information potentially vulnerable to unauthorized access and misuse as a tool to facilitate cybercrime and other criminal activity.

While there are many benefits to innovative technologies like the iPhone, American consumers deserve to know the potential risks that these new technologies pose to their privacy and security. The upcoming hearing on this important issue provides a timely opportunity for Apple, Inc., to directly address these pressing privacy issues.

I look forward to your prompt response to this letter and to Apple's testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,


PATRICK LEAHY
CHAIRMAN