BR Business Roundtable

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September 10, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Majority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer Minority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker Chairman Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell Ranking Member Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. Chairman Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden Ranking Member Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Wicker, Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Cantwell and Ranking Member Walden:

We write to urge you to pass, as soon as possible, a comprehensive consumer data privacy law that strengthens protections for consumers and establishes a national privacy framework to enable continued innovation and growth in the digital economy.

There is now widespread agreement among companies across all sectors of the economy, policymakers and consumer groups about the need for a comprehensive federal consumer data privacy law that provides strong, consistent protections for American consumers. A federal consumer privacy law should also ensure that American companies continue to lead a globally competitive market. As Chief Executive Officers of leading companies across industries, our companies reach virtually every American consumer and rely on data and digital platforms every day to deliver and improve our products and services. Consumer trust and confidence are essential to our businesses. We are committed to protecting consumer privacy and want consumers to have confidence that companies treat their personal information responsibly.

We are also united in our belief that consumers should have meaningful rights over their personal information and that companies that access this information should be held consistently accountable under a comprehensive federal consumer data privacy law.

Consumers have grown accustomed to a breadth of resources and services made available over the internet across state borders and even globally. Consumers should not and cannot be expected to understand rules that may change depending upon the state in which they reside, the state in which they are accessing the internet, and the state in which the company's operation is providing those resources or services. Now is the time for Congress to act and ensure that consumers are not faced with confusion about their rights and protections based on a patchwork of inconsistent state laws. Further, as the regulatory landscape becomes increasingly fragmented and more complex, U.S. innovation and global competitiveness in the digital economy are threatened.

We urgently need a comprehensive federal consumer data privacy law to strengthen consumer trust and establish a stable policy environment in which new services and technologies can flourish within a well-understood legal and regulatory framework. Innovation thrives under clearly defined and consistently applied rules.

Business Roundtable has released a *Framework for Consumer Privacy Legislation* (attached to this letter), which provides a detailed roadmap of issues that a federal consumer privacy law should address. As the Framework describes, a comprehensive federal consumer data privacy law should create robust protections for consumers by requiring businesses to take responsibility for the collection, use and sharing of personal information.

The United States has been a global leader in technology and data-driven innovation and now has the opportunity to lead on consumer data privacy for the benefit of all consumers, companies and commerce. We stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,

Rampen Stephenson

Randall Stephenson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer AT&T Inc.

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Julie Sweet CEO Accenture

Jeffrey P. Bezos Founder and Chief Executive Officer Amazon

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C: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Members of the U.S. Senate