## RON WYDEN OREGON

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## United States Senate WASHINGTON DC 20510-3703

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**COMMITTEES:** 

January 17, 2019

Michel Combes Chief Executive Officer and President Sprint Corp. 6200 Sprint Parkway Overland Park, KS 66251

Randall L Stephenson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer AT&T Inc. 208 South Akard Street Dallas, TX 75202 John Legere Chief Executive Officer T-Mobile US, Inc. 12920 Southeast 38th Street Bellevue, WA 98006

Hans Vestberg Chief Executive Officer Verizon Communications Inc. 1095 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036

Dear Mr. Combes, Mr. Legere, Mr. Stephenson, and Mr. Vestberg:

I write to request, again, that your companies reveal the extent of your sale of Americans' location data. In addition, please provide me with aggregate statistics revealing the number of Oregonian customers whose location data you sold to third parties in each of the past five years.

Last year, after an investigation by my office, I wrote to you to object to your practice of selling your customers' location data without their knowledge or consent. Soon after, you pledged to reform your sale of location data. Last week, however, a *Motherboard* investigation demonstrated not only that you were still failing to protect your customers' private information, but that location data can seemingly be purchased by stalkers, domestic abusers, and others, and for not very much money.

In my May 8, 2018, letter to you raising concerns about this practice, I asked you to provide me with the following information:

- 1. Please identify the third parties with which your company shares or has shared customer information, including location data, at any time during the past five years. For each third party with which you share information directly, please also include a list of the ultimate end users of that information, as well as all intermediaries.
- 2. For each of the third parties identified in response to question one, please detail the types of customer information provided to them and the number of customers

- whose information was shared. For each of these, please detail whether the third party provided proof of customer consent, and if so, how the third party demonstrated that they had obtained customer consent.
- 3. Please describe in full your process, if any, for determining that each third party identified in response to question one has obtained appropriate customer consent before your company shared that customer's information with them. Specifically, please describe what criteria and processes your company uses to review claims and evidence that a third party has obtained consent.
- 4. Please describe any incidents known to your company, or uncovered during your responses to the above, in which a third party with which your company shared customer data misrepresented that they had customer consent.

Although you responded to my letter, none of you provided complete answers to these questions. Despite follow-up requests by my office, your companies continue to refuse to identify the companies with whom you shared your customers' private data, citing contractual commitments to protect the privacy of those companies.

It is telling that you and your lawyers seem to prioritize corporate secrecy over transparency about how your customers' information has been shared without their knowledge. You should end this profiteering immediately and own up to your mistake at having let it go on for this long.

Congress has a responsibility to the American people to investigate this matter. To that end, please provide me with complete answers to the above questions by February 15, 2019. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Chris Soghoian in my office.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

United States Senator