

United States Senate

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May 12, 2006

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Inouye:

Enclosed are copies of letters I sent today to the Chief Executive Officers of Verizon, AT&T, and BellSouth requesting information regarding reports that they have provided the phone call records of tens of millions of Americans to the National Security Agency without getting their customers' consent.

These reports raise serious legal and moral concerns about the commitment these companies have to customer privacy. I trust that the Senate Commerce Committee will exercise its oversight responsibility and investigate these troubling allegations by calling the executives to testify under oath at the earliest possible date.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Enclosures

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Ivan G. Seidenberg
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Headquarters
Verizon Communications
140 West St.
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Seidenberg,

This week, a report in *USA Today* stated that your company turned over the phone records of tens of millions of your customers to the federal government without a court order. If true, this is deeply disturbing and raises concerns about your legal and moral commitment to customer privacy.

As you must know, at least one company is reported to have denied the federal government's request to turn over the phone records of their customers, citing privacy concerns. I believe you have an obligation to come clean with your customers and the public and address the serious questions that have been raised in light of this disclosure.

First, what information was disclosed to the federal government and how was that information shared?

Second, under what legal authority would you have the right to disclose the phone records of your customers, without their consent, to the federal government?

Third, was your company coerced by the federal government or compensated in any way for disclosing this information?

As the author of the Drivers' Privacy Protection Act and co-author of the Wireless 411 Privacy Act pending before the Senate, I have long been a champion of protecting privacy rights. That is why I ask that you respond immediately by phone.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

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