



June 13, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone (D-NJ) Chair House Committee on Energy and Commerce 2107 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) Ranking Member House Committee on Energy and Commerce 1035 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

The need to pass a federal privacy law has never been greater. The global nature of data impacts every industry across our economy and demands a federal approach. Instead, we're seeing a growing patchwork of state laws that are confusing consumers and hurting businesses, especially small businesses. As more states pass their own privacy laws, failure by Congress to take action will cost our economy more than <u>\$1 trillion over 10 years</u>, with more than \$200 billion being paid by small businesses.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy by advocating a <u>targeted policy agenda</u> at the federal and 50-state level. Our <u>membership</u> includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents over 4.7 million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Tomorrow's hearing in the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee to examine the *American Data Privacy and Protection Act* is an indication that leaders from both parties are committed to action and willing to compromise on key issues like a private right of action and preemption. While the bill still needs improvements, we are more hopeful than we have been in years that a bipartisan privacy bill can make its way to the President's desk. Enactment of a federal data privacy law would also be a much-needed bipartisan achievement in the face of increasing polarization among voters. Polls overwhelmingly show that Americans across the ideological spectrum want Congress to come together to act on privacy legislation, with four in five Democrats and Republicans saying Congress should make passing privacy legislation a priority.

We stand ready to assist Congress in protecting American consumers, helping small businesses, and propelling our economy forward. We thank you for your commitment to advancing a federal data privacy law and look forward to working with you on this important issue. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be a resource on this issue or if you have any questions. I can be reached at <u>cholshouser@technet.org</u> or (202) 372-7000.

Sincerely,

Carl Halshouser

Carl Holshouser Senior Vice President