

**Media Contact:**

Neil Grace, (202) 418-0506  
neil.grace@fcc.gov

June 11, 2015

**For Immediate Release**

**FCC CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER CHALLENGES WIRELESS INDUSTRY TO  
ADOPT THEFT-PREVENTION TECHNOLOGIES ON MOBILE PHONES**

WASHINGTON, June 11, 2015 – Today, the Federal Communication Commission’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), acting through its Mobile Device Theft Prevention Working Group, released recommendations regarding on-device theft prevention features. To encourage a quick pivot from recommendations to implementation, FCC Chairman Wheeler today called on the wireless industry to voluntarily support the Working Group’s “opt-out” recommendation, under which theft-prevention features such as remote-locking and remote-data-wiping would be activated on all mobile phones by default and require consumers to take affirmative steps to disable them.

FCC Chairman Wheeler said, “If implemented, these features will result in more consumers using these powerful features which, in turn, will mark a key milestone in combatting smart phone theft.”

The working group, comprised of representatives from key industries involved with mobile technologies, members of law enforcement and consumer interest organizations, recommended supporting mobile device theft-prevention features, including that devices include remote lock and wipe functionalities, as well as the ability to call 911 even when locked, all at no cost to the consumer. The working group’s recommendations seek to uniformly align and to more clearly specify theft-prevention features defined in disparate state laws and the CTIA’s [own voluntary commitments](#) announced in April 2014. Implementation of these recommendations would create a national framework for these features.

The TAC formed the Mobile Device Theft Prevention Working Group in 2014 to develop industry-wide recommendations to mitigate the increasing theft of mobile devices, which has become a major source of crime in the United States. In April 2015, Chairman Wheeler requested that the TAC’s Working Group identify approaches to ensuring that more consumers use on-device anti-theft features. The full report of the Mobile Device Theft Prevention Working Group can be found here: <http://transition.fcc.gov/bureaus/oet/tac/tacdocs/meeting12414/TAC-MDTP-Report-v1.0-FINAL-TAC-version.pdf>.

###

**Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500**  
**TTY: (888) 835-5322**  
**Twitter: @FCC**

**[www.fcc.gov/office-media-relations](http://www.fcc.gov/office-media-relations)**

*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).*