



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Brad Ashford  
U.S. House of Representatives  
107 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ashford:

Thank you for your letter regarding a number of requests from businesses and other parties for clarification on compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) and the Commission's related rules. In your letter, you express your view that some protections created by TCPA need to be modernized to reconcile the law with the modern communications landscape.

Let me assure you that the Commission is committed to the TCPA's goal of protecting consumers from unwanted calls and texts. We know consumers value their privacy, regardless of whether unwanted efforts to reach them target their home landlines or wireless phones. The TCPA makes clear that consumers can choose which calls they want and do not want. That is why I led the Commission to crack down on robocalls, spam texts, and telemarketing calls, which are the number one source of consumer complaints at the FCC. We took action to resolve more than 20 petitions by providing, as you suggest, much needed clarity on number of TCPA issues to business and other callers. Our actions send one clear message: consumers have the right to control the calls and texts they receive.

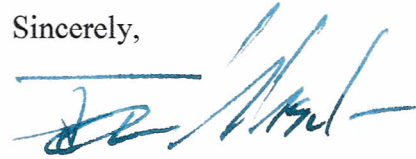
In your letter, you raise concerns businesses and other callers are adversely affected because we have not updated the TCPA to reflect modern calling and consumer expectations. To the contrary, our actions provide the clarifications that responsible businesses need to maintain lawful use of robocalling equipment. Indeed, we interpret the TCPA in a common sense way that benefits both callers and consumers. While the set of petitions addressed at the June Open Meeting did not include those filed by companies contacting student borrowers on behalf of the federal government or on behalf of private student loan entities, the declaratory ruling and order provides useful guidance for any party using "autodialers" to contact consumers. We invite these companies to review the item in detail as we continue review of the remaining petitions.

The Commission's decisions on these issues were based on an extensive record in response to the petitions, including numerous informative meetings with trade associations, small business owners, federal agencies, state attorneys general, consumer groups, and other interested parties. Please be assured that we have carefully considered the input of all stakeholders, including callers and consumers alike.

Page 2—The Honorable Brad Ashford

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
137 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kuster:

Thank you for your letter regarding a number of requests from businesses and other parties for clarification on compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) and the Commission's related rules. In your letter, you express your view that some protections created by TCPA need to be modernized to reconcile the law with the modern communications landscape.

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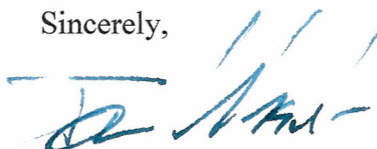
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Tom Wheeler