



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
Committee on Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
G31 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for a proposal that would clarify that carriers can provide, at the consumer's request, existing robocall blocking technology without violating the Communications Act or the Commission's rules. Your views on this issue are very important. We have included your letter in the record of the related proceeding and considered your views as part of the Commission's review.

I agree that market-based robocall blocking solutions can and should be offered by carriers at the consumer's request so that consumers can take back control of their phones and stop unwanted calls. We know that consumers value their privacy, regardless of whether unwanted efforts to reach them target their home landlines or wireless phones. Let me assure you that the Commission is committed to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act's (TCPA) goal of protecting consumers from unwanted calls.

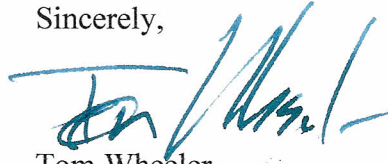
With respect to the specific issue you raise, for the first time the Commission clarified in its June 18, 2015, *Declaratory Ruling and Order*, that nothing in the Communications Act or the Commission's rules prohibits carriers or other service providers from implementing consumer-initiated call-blocking technologies and developing comprehensive solutions. As such, wireline and wireless carriers, as well as VoIP providers, are free to provide consumers with services and technologies to block unwanted robocalls. As you observed in the hearing before the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the technology exists for carriers to offer robocall filters and effectively combat robocalls, and the Commission's action allows for implementation of these market-based technologies at the consumer's request and encourages the continued advancement of industry-wide solutions.

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, 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 Claire McCaskill

I appreciate your interest and support 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", with a horizontal line above the first part of the signature.

Tom Wheeler



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The Honorable Susan Collins
Chairwoman
Committee on Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate
G31 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins:

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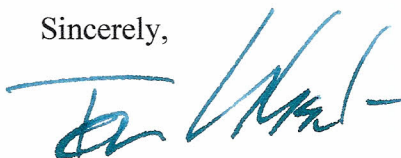
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