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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

Thank you for your continued attention to the issue of mobile device theft. July 1 marked the compliance date for the Smartphone Anti-Theft Voluntary Commitment as well as the implementation of the California and Minnesota laws. While industry groups have said that they are in compliance, I urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to remain diligent and to continue working on ways to combat smartphone theft.

By installing "kill switches" on smartphones we are deterring theft. The Consumer Reports National Research Center recently found that 2.1 million Americans had their phones stolen last year. While this is still a significant number, this is a 32 percent decrease from 2013. Additionally, places like New York City and San Francisco have also seen decreasing rates of stolen iPhones since Apple first began installing anti-theft protections. While I am pleased that so much progress is being made, I will continue to fight for consumers and their safety in Congress.

I applaud the partnerships between industry and law enforcement to educate consumers about how to protect themselves and their information and am encouraged by CTIA's commitment to continuing these efforts. Additionally, I applaud the work that the FCC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has done in identifying additional ways for the industry to protect consumers. I urge the industry and the Commission to act on some of the TAC's additional recommendations, including exploring option to have unique identifiers on mobile devices to help track stolen phones.

We need to continue to ensure that manufacturers and carriers are compliant with the voluntary agreement and state laws. I hope the FCC will not let this issue rest and will continue to make progress and I offer my assistance in these endeavors. Please feel free to contact my office with any updates as you continue your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator