



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

I remain steadfast in my commitment to enforce the TCPA, which is designed to protect consumers from unwanted calls and texts. Consumers value their privacy, regardless of whether unwanted efforts to reach them target their home landlines or wireless phones. While meeting the requirements of the new law, the NPRM also makes a number of proposals designed to help consumers avoid unwanted debt collection robocalls and makes clear that the new rules will not open a door for telemarketing calls. Congress specified that exempted calls must be "solely" to collect a federal debt, and the new rules will comply with that strict limitation.

The NPRM proposes clear, pro-consumer restrictions on the type and number of calls a federal creditor may place to recover a delinquent debt, including those cited in your letter. In particular, the NPRM proposes: to limit the number of covered calls per delinquency; empowering consumers with the right to stop calls from a federal creditor at any time, and to require callers to inform debtors of this right; limiting the number of calls to a re-assigned number; restricting covered calls only to the debtor and not to other family, friends or acquaintances; and limiting the calls to creditors and those calling on their behalf, including debt servicers.

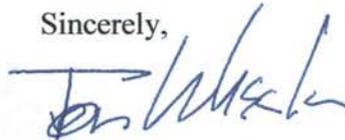
In addition, you advocate support for applying the time-of-day provisions in the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to covered calls; requiring callers to have a documented rationale to support a determination that the particular phone number called belongs to the debtor; and including all consumer protection provisions in the text of the actual rule.

Page 2—The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

I fully agree that these are key issues for the Commission to consider in this context. Please be assured that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns you've presented, as well as those of all stakeholders. Commission staff are reviewing the record and will proceed as expeditiously as possible with draft final rules that satisfy the requirements of Section 301 while preserving important pro-consumer protections.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your important views will be included in the record of the related proceeding and considered as part of the FCC's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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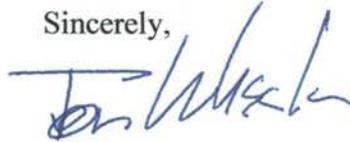
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. House of Representatives
439 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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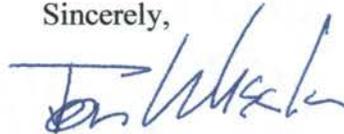
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Page 2—The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici

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Tom Wheeler



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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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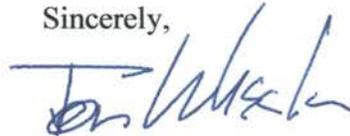
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Page 2—The Honorable Sherrod Brown

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Danny K. Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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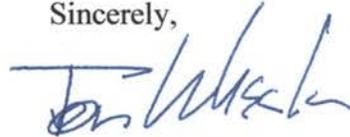
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Page 2—The Honorable Danny K. Davis

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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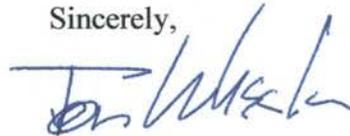
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Sam Farr
U.S. House of Representatives
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Farr:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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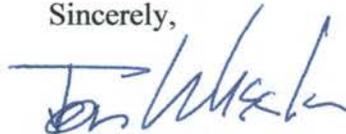
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OFFICE OF
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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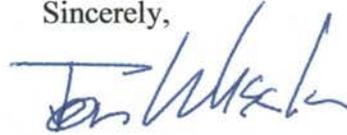
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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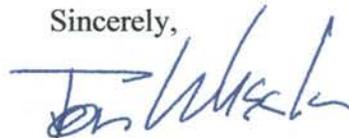
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Page 2—The Honorable Paul Tonko

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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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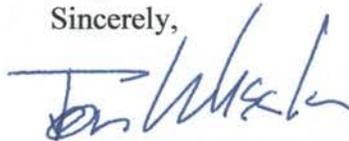
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Page 2—The Honorable Louise M. Slaughter

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July 11, 2016

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
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As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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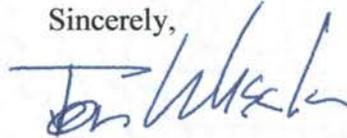
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Page 2—The Honorable Jan Schakowsky

I fully agree that these are key issues for the Commission to consider in this context. Please be assured that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns you've presented, as well as those of all stakeholders. Commission staff are reviewing the record and will proceed as expeditiously as possible with draft final rules that satisfy the requirements of Section 301 while preserving important pro-consumer protections.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your important views will be included in the record of the related proceeding and considered as part of the FCC's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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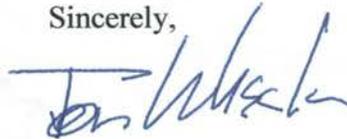
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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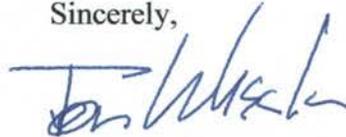
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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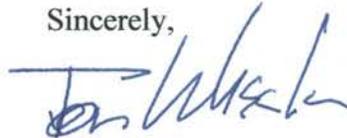
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Page 2—The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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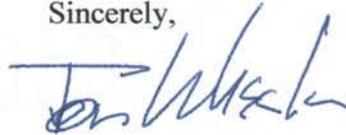
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

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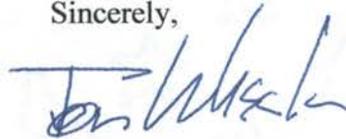
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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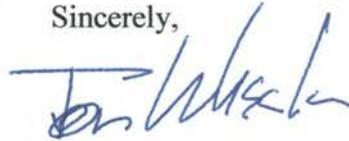
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

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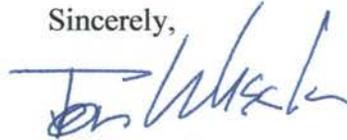
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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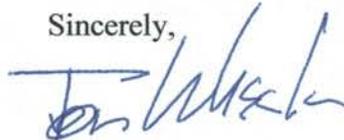
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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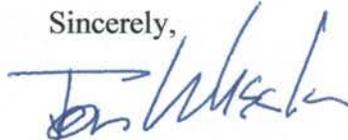
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

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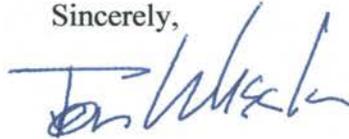
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Page 2—The Honorable Barbara Lee

I fully agree that these are key issues for the Commission to consider in this context. Please be assured that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns you've presented, as well as those of all stakeholders. Commission staff are reviewing the record and will proceed as expeditiously as possible with draft final rules that satisfy the requirements of Section 301 while preserving important pro-consumer protections.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your important views will be included in the record of the related proceeding and considered as part of the FCC's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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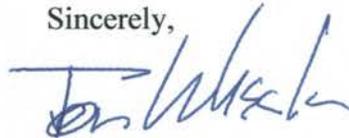
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Page 2—The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy

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Tom Wheeler





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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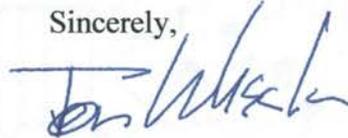
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Page 2—The Honorable Amy Klobuchar

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable William Keating
U.S. House of Representatives
315 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Keating:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

As you note, Section 301 creates an exception to the TCPA's prior express consent requirement for automated calls to cellular or residential telephones for the purpose of collecting debts owed to or guaranteed by the United States. On May 6, 2016, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) as the first step towards implementing these statutory requirements, while shielding consumers from unwanted robocalls.

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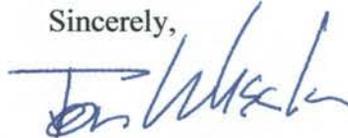
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Page 2—The Honorable William Keating

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Hank Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

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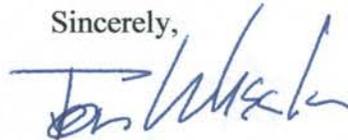
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Page 2—The Honorable Hank Johnson

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Michael M. Honda
U.S. House of Representatives
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Honda:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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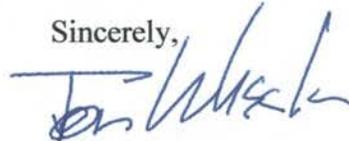
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Page 2—The Honorable Michael M. Honda

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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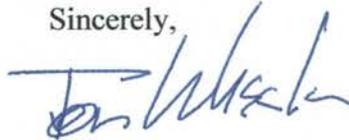
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Page 2—The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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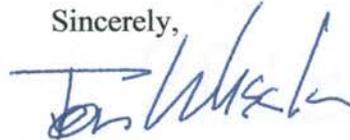
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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to adopt a number of important consumer protections in its final rules implementing Section 301 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which amends the codified Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

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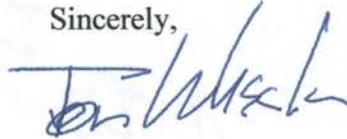
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Page 2—The Honorable Elizabeth Warren

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