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COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

JOHN BARROW
12TH DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

March 2, 2012

Honorable Mary Bono Mack, Chairman
Honorable G.K. Butterfield, Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee,
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bono Mack and Ranking Member Butterfield,

As the Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Commerce and Trade develops plans to hold a hearing examining consumer privacy issues and the FTC's proposed privacy recommendations, I urge you to call on Google to testify before Congress regarding changes to their customer privacy policy.

Technological advances and online innovations have made all of our lives easier in many ways. But with those new opportunities come new challenges. It is important that we not allow these innovations to trump personal privacy. A number of the folks I represent have expressed concerns about Google's proposed policy changes. In light of the recent news that Google bypassed privacy settings in the Safari and Internet Explorer browser software, it's critical that consumer concerns be addressed now and on the record in an open Congressional hearing.

Members on both sides of the aisle and thirty-six state Attorneys General have expressed concern with Google's March 1st changes in terms of service, and we have an obligation to see to it that the privacy concerns of American families are appropriately considered, and responsibly addressed by Congress. I believe consumers should have the ability to easily and effectively safeguard private information about themselves online with the click of a mouse.

As the Federal Trade Commission completes its review of Google's proposal, I urge you to continue to do everything within your power to ensure that all companies entrusted with private and sensitive information be held to the highest standard to protect consumer privacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Barrow".

John Barrow

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