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ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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September 27, 2006

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The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
The Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Leader Boehner:

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce has held hearings and unanimously passed legislation that seeks to end the practice of pretexting, which violates the privacy of American consumers and leaves them vulnerable to identity theft. The Committee has also commenced an investigation into Hewlett-Packard (HP) and will hold a hearing on September 28, 2006, concerning allegations that HP investigators used pretexting against board members and the media.

On March 8, 2006, the Committee on Energy and Commerce unanimously passed H.R. 4943, the Prevention of Fraudulent Access to Phone Records Act, which would halt this pernicious practice and severely punish its perpetrators. The bill was scheduled for a House floor vote on May 2, 2006, but was pulled from the schedule without explanation.

We urge you to bring this bipartisan legislation to a vote before Congress adjourns. The investigation of HP has highlighted the pervasiveness of pretexting and the ease with which imposters may obtain personal information. Every day our constituents are forced to deal with the reality that their personal information could be in the hands of criminals. This bipartisan bill would enable the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to protect consumers more effectively.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

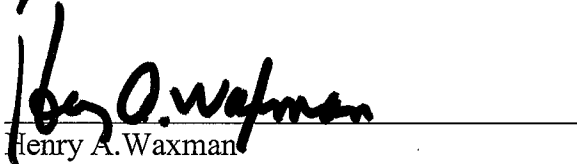
Sincerely,



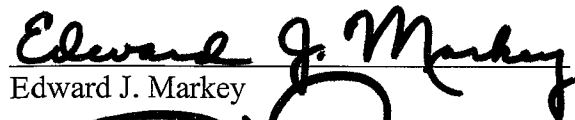
Jay Inslee



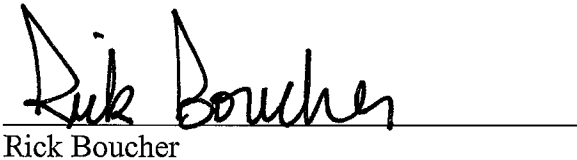
John D. Dingell



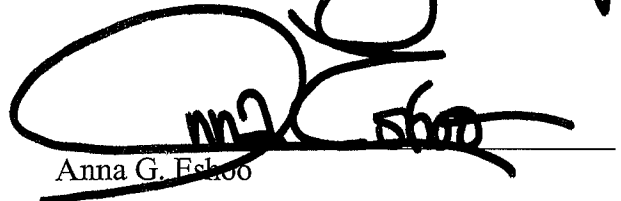
Henry A. Waxman



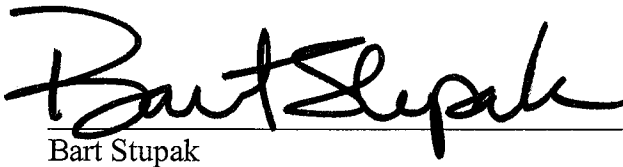
Edward J. Markey



Rick Boucher



Anna G. Eskoo



Bart Stupak



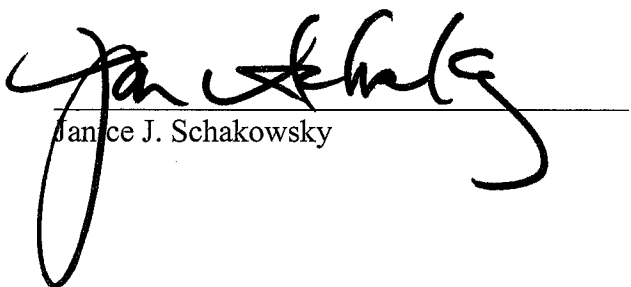
Diana DeGette



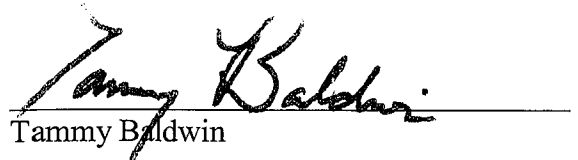
Lois Capps



Michael F. Doyle



Janice J. Schakowsky



Tammy Baldwin

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
The Honorable John A. Boehner
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cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce