

Brian J. Raymond

Director  
Technology Policy

September 27, 2016

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman, Judiciary Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers,

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing 14,000 manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, I am writing to express the NAM's strong support for the bipartisan International Communications Privacy Act (ICPA), H.R.5323, introduced Representatives Tom Marino (R-PA) and Suzan DelBene (D-WA).

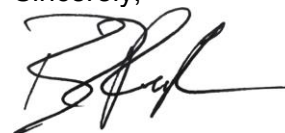
Today's connected environment allows manufacturers of all sizes to leverage cloud computing technology and take their businesses global. Quote sheets, business plans, go-to market strategies and business e-mails are securely transmitted and stored on computers and servers around the world. Along with these strategic communications, very sensitive customer information and other data are shared electronically. The manufacturer-customer relationship is built on the trust that this information will be kept secure and will not be shared outside of that partnership.

ICPA will enhance that trust between manufacturers and their international customers by providing much-needed clarity to current law regarding U.S. government access to digitally-stored data belonging to foreign nationals. It does so by supporting the real and very important needs of law enforcement and national security while securing the privacy of our partners.

The bill requires that U.S. law enforcement must obtain a warrant for digital content of U.S. persons. It also enhances the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) process therefore strengthening the international rule of law. This international law-enforcement cooperation should facilitate the flow of data across borders while also helping to reduce data localizing efforts.

Manufacturers in the United States lead the world in innovation and we cannot afford to lose business outside of our borders where 95 percent of the market resides. The NAM urges you to support ICPA and prevent any further government overreach that threatens the competitive advantage of manufacturers and the jobs they create.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Raymond