

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing,  
and Trade  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Guthrie and Bilirakis,

Several industries are struggling to comply with a patchwork of state laws governing data privacy. **That is why we write today in support of the SECURE Data Act (H.R. 8413), which would establish a national privacy and data security framework, and urge the Energy and Commerce Committee to advance this legislation without delay.**

The SECURE Data Act is the product of more than 15 months of careful deliberation by the Committee's Privacy Working Group. The result balances the practical realities of the modern economy with clear, enforceable protections for Americans' personal data.

**A federal data privacy standard is badly needed.** Congress's failure to pass one has led states to pass their own data privacy laws governing websites, ISPs, and online data brokers. If all 50 states move forward with their own privacy laws, it could cost the American economy over \$1 trillion in the next decade, with \$200 billion of that burden falling on small businesses.

Some of these are bad ideas, like Maine's law imposing liability on ISPs rather than websites that actually collect user data. But many are workable solutions that balance user privacy without opening the flood gates to vexatious litigation that would crush private sector innovation. Some of these state laws – including those in Texas, Tennessee, Colorado, Kentucky, New Jersey, and Virginia – inspired the basic provisions of the SECURE Data Act. **This legislation aligns with bipartisan state laws already protecting millions of Americans while solving the patchwork problem.**


The bill allows consumers to access, correct, or delete their own data and requires their consent before businesses may process sensitive information pertaining to them. Parental consent for minors is codified. In lieu of federal regulation, the private sector is invited to develop best practices that the Department of Commerce may ratify into a federal Code of Conduct.

These are real data privacy protections, and the SECURE Data Act provides them without enriching trial lawyers through a private right of action, empowering any federal agencies to pursue open-ended rulemakings, or inviting states to complicate the system with inconsistent regulations.





*George Landrith, President*



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**By avoiding these mistakes from previous attempts at a federal data privacy standard, the SECURE Data Act stands a better chance of passage and will result in better policy for American consumers.**

Entrenched bureaucracies like the California Privacy Protection Agency are already lining up in opposition to the bill because they prefer a confusing patchwork of state laws that enrich trial lawyers and empower bureaucrats like themselves at the expense of consumers. Congress should ignore these entities and hold the line on strong preemption, no private right of action, and no open-ended regulation.

**We are proud to support the SECURE Data Act and urge you to swiftly pass H.R. 8413. We stand ready to assist in the effort.**

Sincerely,

**Grover Norquist**  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

**James Erwin**  
Executive Director  
Digital Liberty

**Tom Giovanetti**  
President  
Institute for Policy Innovation

**James Czernaiwski**  
Head of Emerging Technology Policy  
Consumer Choice Center

**Ryan Ellis**  
President  
Center for a Free Economy

**Saulius “Saul” Anuzis**  
President  
American Association of Senior Citizens

**Andrew Langer**  
President  
Institute for Liberty

**Logan Kolas**  
Director of Technology Policy  
The American Consumer Institute

**Dick Patten**  
President  
American Business Defense Council

**Lorenzo Montanari**  
Executive Director  
Property Rights Alliance

**Chuck Muth**  
President  
Citizen Outreach

**Brian Garst**  
Vice President  
Center for Freedom and Prosperity

**Lisa B. Nelson**  
CEO  
ALEC Action

**James L. Martin**  
Founder/Chairman  
60 Plus Association

**Jeff Mazzella**  
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Center for Individual Freedom

**Phil Kerpen**  
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