

# COMPANIES & PRIVACY ADVOCATES AGREE: *PASS THE USA FREEDOM ACT!*

The USA FREEDOM Act, H.R. 2048, **ends bulk collection, strengthens protections for civil liberties, increases transparency, and prevents government overreach—all while also protecting national security.**

Here is what some notable organizations are saying in support:

**BSA | The Software Alliance**: “In reforming government surveillance practices, it is critical that legislation strikes the right balance between securing our nation and its citizens and improving privacy protections for the public. The FISA reforms in the *USA Freedom Act* will help restore trust in both the US government and the US technology sector.”

**Center for Democracy and Technology**: “The *USA Freedom Act* of 2015 offers an effective path forward in reforming overbroad domestic surveillance and putting an end to the bulk collection of Americans’ communications. With Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act soon to expire, Congress should move quickly to pass this legislation – without weakening it – to protect Americans’ privacy while preserving national security.”

**Consumer Electronics Association**: “The *USA Freedom Act* balances the right to privacy with the protection of our national security – enacting thoughtful reforms to the government’s intelligence gathering programs and affirming our country’s commitment to transparency and strong national defense.”

**Facebook**: “Facebook supports House Judiciary Chairman Goodlatte, Ranking Member Conyers, and Senators Lee, Leahy, and Heller for introducing and building support for the bipartisan *USA Freedom Act*. This legislation will prohibit the bulk collection of Internet metadata and increase transparency while continuing to provide the tools necessary to keep America safe.”

**Google**: “Google supports this measure as introduced, the *USA Freedom Act of 2015*, and we urge Congress to move expeditiously to enact it into law ... It is critical that Congress now act to begin to restore consumers’ trust in the Internet.”

**i2Coalition**: “On behalf of the companies – large and small – who build and maintain the nuts and bolts of the Internet, we believe the *USA Freedom Act of 2015* takes vital steps forward and we stand ready to continue our work with Congress on additional reforms to promote transparency and ensure the continued competitiveness of US businesses.”

**The Internet Association**: “The Internet industry appreciates the bipartisan, bicameral introduction of the *USA Freedom Act*. The reforms included in this bill end bulk data collection, increase transparency, and implement enhanced accountability for surveillance activities — three important steps to comprehensive reform.”

**Internet Technology Industry Council:** “We applaud Reps. Goodlatte, Conyers, Sensenbrenner, and Nadler; and Sens. Leahy and Lee, for their commitment to finding a bicameral, bipartisan approach to reforming our government’s surveillance authorities . . . . The bill, among other things, ends indiscriminate bulk collection of data and enables the private sector to be more transparent about the orders it receives. These reforms are critical to restoring user trust across the globe in both the U.S. government and U.S.-based technology companies as well as the open and borderless Internet our innovation economy depends upon.”

**Microsoft:** “The introduction today of the *USA Freedom Act* is an important step forward to address continuing concerns about government surveillance. We believe it strikes the right balance between safeguarding personal privacy and public safety.”

**Open Technology Institute:** “Passage of the *USA Freedom Act of 2015* would represent an important first step in the long process of reining in the NSA’s overreaching surveillance programs.”

**R Street:** “Leading Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate deserve immense credit for taking this important first step to rein in our government’s overreaching surveillance programs . . . This year’s *USA Freedom Act* counts as the first major success in our efforts to curtail indiscriminate government surveillance and bring it in line with fundamental constitutional values.”

**Reform Government Surveillance, which represents AOL, Apple, Dropbox, Evernote, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Twitter, and Yahoo:** “We support the bicameral, bipartisan legislation, which ends existing bulk collection practices under the USA Patriot Act and increases transparency and accountability while also protecting U.S. national security. We thank Representatives Goodlatte, Sensenbrenner, Conyers and Nadler and Senators Lee, Leahy, Heller, and Franken, as well as other Members, who have worked hard over the past several months to draft a common sense bill that addresses the concerns of industry, the Intelligence Community, and civil society in a constructive and balanced manner. We look forward to working with Congress to pass this legislation by June 1st.”

**Software & Information Industry Association:** “U.S. technological leadership continues to be challenged worldwide by questions about our current surveillance regime. Surveillance reform is an essential part of restoring international trust in U.S. businesses and ensuring America’s continued economic leadership. SIIA commends Senators Mike Lee (R-UT) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Representatives Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI), John Conyers (D-MI) and Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) for introducing the *USA Freedom Act*, and for their commitment to ensuring that needed surveillance programs have safeguards that also provide for necessary privacy, transparency and accountability.”

**YAHOO!:** “We are encouraged by the bipartisan introduction of the *USA Freedom Act* in both the House and the Senate today. We urge Congress to move forward with passing meaningful reform, like the measures outlined in this legislation.”