

June 6, 2008

The Honorable Edward Markey  
2108 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton  
2109 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 205

Dear Chairman Markey and Ranking Member Barton:

We write to thank you for your May 16, 2008 letter to the CEO of Charter Communications and to urge you to hold hearings on the issue of Internet service providers (ISPs) and their business partners targeting ads to subscribers based on inspections of those subscribers' Web activities.

Your letter addressed Charter's plan to share data with NebuAd, a third-party firm. We were pleased that you raised questions regarding the legal status of this plan under existing privacy laws relating to cable systems. It has been widely reported, however, that NebuAd is not the only company working with ISPs to collect Web browsing information for these purposes, and Charter is not the only ISP working with such companies. We are concerned that such ISP wiretapping schemes may violate multiple privacy laws and policies. These practices should clearly be investigated.

We urge you to help begin the process of shining a light on these practices with relevant hearings on this issue. We hope that we can meet with your staff soon to discuss our concerns in detail.

Sincerely,

Center for Democracy and Technology  
Center for Digital Democracy  
Consumer Action  
Consumer Federation of America  
Consumers Union  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Electronic Privacy Information Center  
Free Press  
Media Access Project  
Privacy Activism  
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse  
Public Knowledge  
US Public Interest Research Group  
World Privacy Forum  
Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic