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Consumer Electronics Association

September 15, 2015

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

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
United States House of Representatives

RE: H.R. 1428, the Judicial Redress Act of 2015

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

We, the undersigned trade associations and organizations, write to thank you for scheduling H.R. 1428, the Judicial Redress Act of 2015, for consideration on Thursday, September 17, 2015. We join the ranks of a broad range of stakeholders from industry, civil society groups, and government to express our strong support of this bill.

As a result of the U.S. surveillance revelations that began over two years ago, the U.S. government and the U.S. technology industry have experienced a substantial degradation in trust worldwide. That degradation of trust has translated into significant negative commercial consequences for U.S. firms, with global consumers choosing technology solutions from other providers. Additionally, the revelations have led a number of foreign governments to consider proposals that would impede the borderless nature of the internet – the very characteristic that has permitted the internet to thrive.

The enactment of the Judicial Redress Act would constitute another step in rebuilding the trust of citizens worldwide in both our industry and the U.S. government. The bill extends certain rights granted to U.S. citizens under the Privacy Act to the citizens of designated foreign allies. Citizens of designated countries would be granted standing to seek access to records shared with a U.S. government agency in the course of a criminal investigation, amend such records when they are erroneous, and seek redress when such records are unlawfully disclosed by an agency. Many of our allies have already provided similar rights to U.S. citizens under their laws – a prerequisite to being deemed a designated country under the Judicial Redress Act.

In addition to signaling to consumers worldwide that the U.S. government is committed to appropriately protecting the privacy of individuals, the Judicial Redress Act is the last hurdle to finalizing the Data Privacy and Protection Agreement (the so-called “umbrella agreement”) governing the transfer of data between the U.S. and the EU for the purpose of combatting crime and terrorism. While the language of the agreement was agreed upon in final form earlier this month, the European Parliament will not adopt the agreement until enactment of the Judicial Redress Act, once again signaling the importance of this

commitment to appropriately protecting the privacy of individuals and encouraging the free flow of information between the U.S. and other countries.

Passage of H.R. 1428 is crucial to restoring public trust in our government and our sector. Restoring that trust is essential to continued cross-border data flows, which is vital for the continued competitiveness of the American technology industry. We thank you for taking this important step toward that goal.

Sincerely,

Application Developers Alliance
BSA The Software Alliance
Computer & Communications Industry Association
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Consumer Electronics Association
Information Technology Industry Council
Software & Information Industry Association
TechNet

cc: Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary