



June 8, 2015

President Barack Obama The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

The undersigned associations, representing a wide range of companies in the technology sector, write in connection with encryption technologies that companies incorporate into their products and services. This correspondence is intended to provide clarity on our position and to help develop a framework for further dialogue. We also take this opportunity to point out the global implications of certain policy measures relating to encryption.

We are opposed to any policy actions or measures that would undermine encryption as an available and effective tool. As you know, encryption helps to secure many aspects of our daily lives. Encryption is an essential asset of the global digital infrastructure, enabling security and confidentiality for transactions as well as assurances to individuals that their communications are private and information is protected. For example, the rapid growth in online commerce would not have happened but for consumers' trust that their payment information is secure. Consumer trust in digital products and services is an essential component enabling continued economic growth of the online marketplace.

Accordingly, we urge you not to pursue any policy or proposal that would require or encourage companies to weaken these technologies, including the weakening of encryption or creating encryption "work-arounds." We appreciate that, where appropriate, law enforcement has the legitimate need for certain information to combat crime and threats. However, mandating the weakening of encryption or encryption "work-arounds" is not the way to address this need. Doing so would compromise the security of ICT products and services, rendering them more vulnerable to attacks and would erode consumers' trust in the products and services they rely on for protecting their information.

In addition to these security and trust concerns, the U.S. policy position on encryption will send a signal to the rest of the world. Should the U.S. government require companies to weaken encryption technology, such requirements will legitimize similar efforts by foreign governments. This would threaten the global marketplace as well as deprive individuals of certain liberties.

We are committed to finding pathways forward that preserve security, privacy, and innovation. We know the issue at hand is extremely complex, with implications both domestically and internationally. We hope that by being clear in defining the nature of the problem and our position we can contribute to the current dialogue. We look forward to continuing this discussion with your administration.

Sincerely,

Information Technology Industry Council Software & Information Industry Association

The Honorable John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State cc:

The Honorable Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney General

The Honorable Penny Pritzker, U.S. Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Jeh Johnson, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security

The Honorable James Comey, U.S. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Director of the National Economic Council