

ROSS TEEPLE

Good afternoon, Chairman Hawley, Ranking Member Durbin, and distinguished members of the committee. Thank you for the invitation to speak before you today on this critical issue.

My name is Ross Teeple, and I am honored to be elected the 25th Sheriff of Pinal County, Arizona and proud to be married to my beautiful bride for 33 years.

Protecting public safety and defending constitutional rights are law enforcement's most important jobs.

I am here today because I firmly believe we can use technology to keep our communities safe while still achieving both of those vital goals.

Let me be entirely clear: Automatic License Plate Readers, or ALPRs, are a great tool. Technology that is strictly limited to reading license plates helps us solve crimes, catch dangerous criminals, and find missing people. It allows us to cross-reference plates against stolen vehicle databases or respond to active AMBER alerts instantly.

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ROSS TESTIMONY
(Cont'd)

ROSS TEEPLE (CONT'D)

Under the Supreme Court's landmark 2020 ruling in Kansas v. Glover, running a license plate to check registration status provides the reasonable suspicion needed to make a proactive traffic stop.

Used properly, point-in-time license plate reading is common-sense law enforcement.

The Committee reached out to me because I was one of the first Law Enforcement leaders in the country to end our contract with Flock.

Make no mistake, that decision was controversial but has also been extremely popular across the political spectrum.

- * Pinal County presents unique law enforcement
- * challenges: It is the size of Connecticut, lies
- * between Arizona's two biggest cities and it's about
- * 60 miles from the Border.

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ROSS TESTIMONY
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ROSS TEEPLE (CONT'D)

* Interstates 10 and 8, some of the of the busiest
* human and drug trafficking corridors in America, run right
* through the heart of my county. There's a good
* chance that fentanyl being sold outside Union Station
* across the street here —*or in your hometown*—came
* through Pinal County.

* Given those challenges, it would be irresponsible to
* not equip my deputies with the best technology to
* help them do their jobs. But I will never allow
* technology to supersede our rights.

* I believe the latest camera networks, powered by
artificial intelligence and machine learning, are capable
of violating our citizens' Fourth Amendment rights.

We have entered an era where some camera
networks are capable of capturing much more than
just a snapshot of a plate on a highway.

If my deputies need a search warrant to put a physical
tracker on a vehicle, where is the line for camera systems
that build an identical, AI-driven map of a citizen's life?

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ROSS TESTIMONY
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ROSS TEEPLE (CONT'D)

Recently, I received an email from a law enforcement colleague regarding these cameras that I found chilling. He wrote: "Some courts compare point-in-time to continuous tracking as the reasoning. Will there someday be a Supreme Court ruling on these? No doubt but today as I type this there is no violation of the 4th amendment."

* With all due respect to my colleague, that is the
* wrong mindset. We all swore an oath to defend the
constitution. We shouldn't wait for the Supreme
Court to tell us something is a violation before we
decide to protect the privacy of our citizens.

History has shown us the cost of law enforcement moving faster than Supreme Court constitutional rulings.

Sixty years ago in my state, a detective arrested a man named Ernesto Miranda. The Detective got a confession and secured a conviction. But because procedural safeguards weren't actively protected, the Supreme Court threw that conviction out in *Miranda v. Arizona*, fundamentally changing law enforcement forever.

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ROSS TESTIMONY
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ROSS TEEPLE (CONT'D)

Now everybody in America has heard of their Miranda rights. What people forget or don't know about Miranda rights is that the detective knew better. It was already common practice to let suspects know: they have the right to remain silent, and they have a right to an attorney.

Now... everyone in America has heard of Flock. In Pinal County, that's become a 4-letter word.

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If we rely on private camera networks to act as a dragnet, continuously logging the habits of innocent Americans without a warrant, we are paving the way to an AI-driven surveillance state.

If we allow government-funded Private Surveillance companies to push this envelope blindly, we risk a sweeping judicial correction that could strip away the legitimate, life-saving aspects of ALPR technology entirely.

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ROSS TESTIMONY
(Cont'd)

ROSS TEEPLE (CONT'D)

We must establish clear, statutory boundaries for automated surveillance.

We cannot wait for a future Supreme Court ruling to correct AI overreach.

We must protect the Fourth Amendment today.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.

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