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VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Sundar Pichai
Chief Executive Officer
Google Inc.
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear Mr. Pichai:

I am writing you concerning the recent events surrounding Facebook, Cambridge Analytica, and the alleged improper use of several million Facebook user profiles. These events have raised significant concerns regarding the data security practices of large social media platforms and their interactions with third party developers and other commercial users of such data.

It is the Committee's duty to conduct oversight of the laws and policies governing the collection, protection, use, and dissemination of commercial information. In that light, it is important that the Committee understand how Google manages and monitors user privacy for the significant amounts of data which it collects.

Accordingly, please provide a response in writing no later than April 25, 2018, to the following list of questions:

1. What are your current policies and procedures with respect to the sharing of data with third party developers, including how you notify users of such sharing and/or request their consent?
    a. How have these policies and procedures evolved/changed since 2010?
    b. Do you intend to make any changes in light of recent events?

2. How do you ensure that user data shared with third party developers is not improperly transferred or used?

3. Do you limit the ability of third party developers to collect data beyond the scope of their application? If so, how do you ensure that third party developer agreements are limited in scope?

4. What remedies do you have against a third party developer who exceeds the scope of their access?

5. Do you have protocols built into your third party developer platform to monitor data usage or access?

6. What audit procedures do you have to ensure compliance with third party developer agreements?
    a. How often have these audits been carried out?
    b. How compliant have third party developers been?

7. Have third party developers breached your terms/agreements in the past, and what remedies have you taken?

8. What are your current policies and procedures with respect to notifying users of a data breach?
    a. How have these policies and procedures evolved/changed since 2010?
    b. Do you intend to make any changes in light of recent events?

9. What are your current policies and procedures with respect to notifying users of an improper transfer of their data?
    a. How have these policies and procedures evolved/changed since 2010?
    b. Do you intend to make any changes in light of recent events?

10. Do you restrict the ability of third party developers to access data for a political purpose?

11. What engagement do you have with political campaigns and do you have policies and procedures governing these engagements?
    a. How have these policies and procedures evolved/changed since 2010?
    b. Do you intend to make any changes in light of recent events?

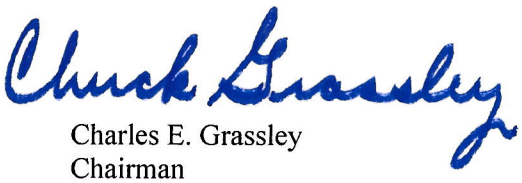
12. How do you monitor the ability of foreign entities to access user data? What restrictions are in place to limit such access?

13. How do you monitor the ability of foreign entities to influence and interfere with U.S. elections?

14. Are you aware of any foreign entities seeking to influence or interfere with U.S. elections through your platforms?

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to these matters. Should you have any questions, please contact Ryan Dattilo of my staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Cc:

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary