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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

ELLEN DONESKI, STAFF DIRECTOR
DAVID SCHWIETERT, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

December 19, 2014

Mr. Logan Green
Chief Executive Officer
Lyft Inc.
2300 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA 94110

Dear Mr. Green:

We are writing to request copies of documents related to Lyft's data-security and privacy-protection practices in response to recent media accounts that have raised questions and concerns about your company's policies in that area.

Some media reports have suggested that Lyft may lack responsible data-security practices and protections. For example, a recent press report described a Lyft executive allegedly accessing a journalist's travel logs on multiple occasions, and the article further reported that a Lyft spokeswoman had access to users' travel logs.¹ The press has also reported that Lyft recently altered its privacy policy. Under the revised privacy policy, however, it is unclear as to how and to whom Lyft provides access to its customers' information including their "non-public information" – which Lyft considers "demographic information" – because the privacy policy states, "We may review all demographic Data."² Furthermore, it is unclear whether Lyft's internal policies – which it declined to make available – ensure proper practices.³

Since 2002, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has brought more than 50 enforcement actions against companies that have put consumers' personal data at risk or that have failed to honor the terms of their privacy policies. The companies were in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, which prohibits unfair or deceptive acts or practices. The Commission's cases have cut a wide swath across industries, including social networking sites, mobile handset manufacturers, application developers, rental car companies, retail and drug stores, check cashing companies, and hotel chains.

¹ *It's Not Just Uber: Tech Companies Snooping on Users Is All Too Common*, Re/code (Nov. 20, 2014) (online at <http://recode.net/2014/11/20/tech-companies-snooping-on-users-creepy-and-common/>).

² Lyft, *Privacy Policy* (Dec. 8, 2014) (online at www.lyft.com/privacy).

³ *Uber's Rival Lyft Quietly Limits Employee Access to User Data*, Wall Street Journal (Nov. 21, 2014) (online at <http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2014/11/21/uber-and-the-temptation-to-misuse-personal-data/>).

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The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has jurisdiction over the FTC, commercial data practices, and consumer privacy. We have advocated for data-security legislation that would better protect consumers and improve corporate responsibility. Chairman Rockefeller and Members of the Committee have also previously requested and received documents and briefings from other companies regarding their data-security and privacy practices.

To further assist the Committee in evaluating questions that have been raised about Lyft's practices, we request copies of all public and internal policies pertaining to Lyft's data-security and privacy practices by Monday, December 29, 2014. In addition, we also request a Committee staff briefing from your company's top officials in charge of data-security practices and privacy.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact Christian Tamotsu Fjeld on the Committee staff at (202) 224-1270, Chris Day on Senator Nelson's staff at (202) 224-5274, or Nick Choate on Senator McCaskill's staff at (202) 224-6154.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection,
Product Safety, and Insurance



Bill Nelson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science and Space

cc: John Thune
Ranking Member