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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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November 6, 2007

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The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rush:

In July of this year, you sent a letter to Federal Trade Commission Chairman Majoras regarding the Commission's ongoing review of the proposed merger between Google and DoubleClick. In that letter, you cited concern over the merger in terms of both the consumer protection and privacy arenas. We send you this letter to commend you for your attention to these issues and to request a Subcommittee hearing as soon as practicable. The Subcommittee has a distinguished record in the areas of privacy and e-commerce. Given the enormous significance that this merger has in these areas, we believe a rigorous examination before the Subcommittee is warranted.

On September 27, 2007, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights held a hearing on the competitive impact of the proposed merger. Although much of the hearing focused on competitive issues in the online advertising world, privacy issues garnered much attention as well. In our view, more questions arose than were answered regarding the privacy implications of the merger. We believe it is time for further investigation into the matter so that we are assured that consumers' interests are being protected.

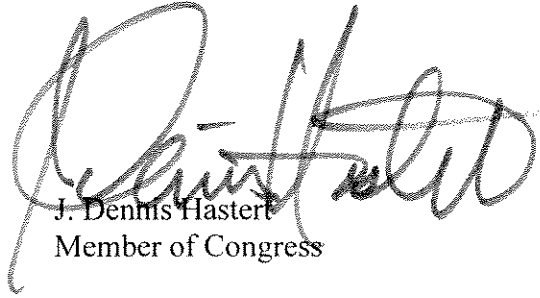
Many companies possess search engines and track consumer habits. These companies may amass consumer information into databases, the likes of which have never before been seen in the history of e-commerce. One focus of this hearing could be on how this information is used and what could be done to better protect consumer privacy. Google and DoubleClick would have one of the largest search query databases with one of the world's largest online user behavioral profile databases. The privacy implications of such a merger are enormous and without an in-depth examination, we and the American public will not fully understand what all of those implications may be.

Our Subcommittee has a strong history of oversight and action in all areas of consumer protection, particularly in the arena of consumer privacy. We have held a number of hearings regarding privacy and e-commerce and have worked together on a number of bills addressing these issues as well, including E-Sign, Can Spam, Spyware and the SAFE WEB ACT. We strongly urge you to hold a hearing into this matter as expeditiously as possible.

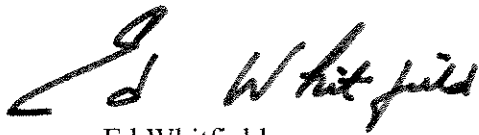
Sincerely,



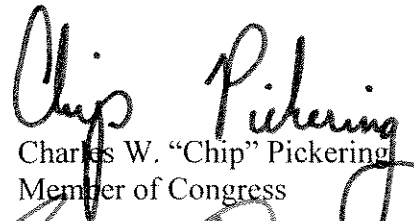
Cliff Stearns  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and  
Consumer Protections



J. Dennis Hastert  
Member of Congress



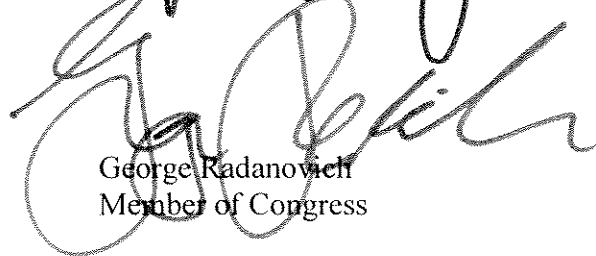
Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



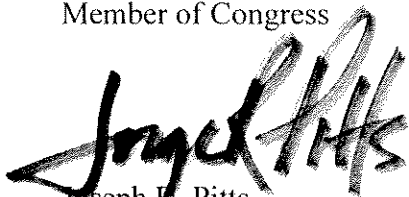
Charles W. "Chip" Pickering  
Member of Congress



Vito Fossella  
Member of Congress



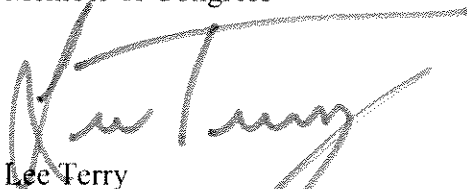
George Radanovich  
Member of Congress



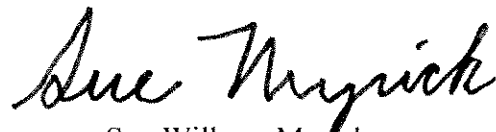
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Member of Congress



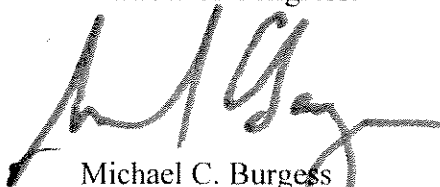
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