

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

January 27, 2012

Mr. Larry Page  
Chief Executive Officer  
Google  
1600 Amphitheatre Parkway  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear Mr. Page:

Google recently announced dramatic changes to its privacy policy including the consolidation of over 60 individual policies into a single umbrella privacy policy effective March 1, 2012. These changes give rise to important questions regarding the impact on Google's users. We invite you to brief the members of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade on these proposed modifications.

We applaud the move toward a shorter, simpler, streamlined policy, and believe that easier-to-understand terms of service are in the best interest of consumers. We are concerned, however, with other changes to Google's privacy policy, particularly with how a user's data will be collected, combined, archived, and used across services. These changes might not otherwise be troubling but for one significant change to your terms of service: Google will not permit users to opt out of this information collection and sharing across platforms and devices. While Google's announcement suggests the company gives users "meaningful choices about how [user information] is used", denying users an option to opt out of sharing their information across platforms or devices that they may otherwise strive to keep separate (e.g., work computer versus personal Android phone) appears to significantly reduce the spirit and substance of "meaningful choice."

As Google's announcement also states, "this stuff matters," and we agree: it matters deeply to both policymakers and consumers. We therefore respectfully request that you or your designee meet with the Members of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade no later than Friday, February 3, 2012, to discuss these imminent changes to Google's privacy policy and practices.

Letter to Mr. Larry Page

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If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Shannon Weinberg with the Committee Staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Mary Bono Mack  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Manufacturing, and Trade



G.K. Butterfield  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Manufacturing, and Trade

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member