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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

February 4, 2014

Ms. Marissa Mayer
Chief Executive Officer, President & Director
Yahoo! Inc.
701 First Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94089

Dear Ms. Mayer:

We are writing to request a briefing from your company's information-security officials about the recent security attack that used usernames and passwords to gain unauthorized access to Yahoo Mail accounts. On January 30, 2014, your company reported the discovery of the attack, which was likely carried out using usernames and passwords obtained from a breach of a third-party database.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has jurisdiction over commercial data practices and data security, and, as Chairman of the full Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance, we have been advocates for data security and breach notification legislation that would better protect consumers and improve corporate responsibility. The recent data security incidents that have affected major corporations, including Yahoo, demonstrate the need for such federal legislation.

We ask that Yahoo's information-security officials provide a briefing to Committee staff regarding your company's investigation and latest findings on the circumstances that permitted unauthorized access to the usernames and passwords of Yahoo Mail users, regardless of whether the data was housed internally or by a third party. It has been a week since Yahoo made public the incident, and we expect that your security experts have had time to examine the cause and impact of the attack and breach and will be able to provide the Committee with detailed information.

Ms. Marissa Mayer
February 4, 2014
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Christian Tamotsu Fjeld on the Committee staff at (202) 224-1270.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

Sincerely,



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