

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 20, 2014

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Thune:

As you know, digitally-connected technologies, such as health wearables and home-connected devices, represent a rapidly evolving transformation of the Internet. The introduction of these innovative consumer products presents a wide range of cutting-edge policy issues impacting a broad set of businesses and industry sectors. International Data Corporation expects what some are calling the “Internet of Things” to generate global revenues of \$8.9 trillion – with over 200 billion connected objects – by 2020. In anticipation of the opportunities and challenges this technological revolution will bring, we respectfully request the Senate Commerce Committee to schedule a general oversight and information-gathering hearing before the end of this year.

The proliferation of connected products is sparking a number of important policy questions related to consumer protection, security, privacy, technical standards, spectrum capacity, manufacturing, regulatory certainty, and public-sector applications, among many others. Last November, the Federal Trade Commission conducted a panel on some of these topics. The number and the scope of these issues demands our prompt attention so we can better understand the technologies and explore how best to preserve America’s global leadership position in innovation and economic growth. These issues are especially ripe for congressional attention as millions of Americans will be shopping for new tech products during the upcoming holiday season. Congress should engage on the issue cautiously and constructively, in a bipartisan fashion, and we appreciate your leadership in examining this topic.

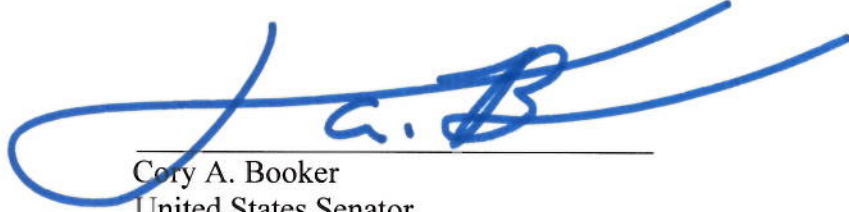
Now is the time to start building a robust public record through testimony and questions. The Senate Commerce Committee has the most relevant jurisdiction over these matters because of its authority over the broadband economy and consumer protection issues. Smart policy can best result from an open, collaborative process and dialogue generated by our committee. For those reasons and others, we commit to working with you on an agenda for a public hearing at your convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,




Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator