

Brian J. Raymond

Director
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February 27, 2015

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers,

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing 14,000 manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, I am writing to express the NAM's strong support for the Law Enforcement Access to Data Stored Abroad Act, or LEADS Act, introduced by Representatives Marino (R-PA) and DelBene (D-WA).

Today's connected environment allows manufacturers of all sizes to take their businesses global. Quote sheets, business plans, go-to market strategies and business e-mails are securely transmitted and stored on computers and servers around the world. Along with these strategic communications, very sensitive customer information and other data are shared electronically. The manufacturer-customer relationship is built on the trust that this information will be kept secure and will not be shared outside of that partnership.

The LEADS Act will enhance that trust between manufacturers and their customers by clarifying and modernizing current law regarding government access to data stored digitally. It does so by working to balance the real and very important needs of law enforcement and national security while securing the privacy of the communication between the partners.

The bill will also safeguard Americans' electronic data stored abroad and establish a balanced process for how U.S. law enforcement can obtain this data while respecting the sovereign rights of other countries. This international law-enforcement cooperation should facilitate the flow of data across borders while also helping to reduce data localizing efforts.

At a time when manufacturing in the United States is launching a comeback, our industry cannot afford to lose business outside of our borders where 95 percent of the market resides. The NAM urges you to support the LEADS Act and prevent any further government overreach that threatens the growth of manufacturers and the jobs they create.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Raymond