

TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION



502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

March 8, 2019

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
Senator Roger Wicker, Chairman
Senator Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Comment from the Tennessee Public Utility Commission Supporting
Enactment of the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and
Deterrence ("TRACED") Act

Dear Senators Wicker and Cantwell:

On behalf of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, we wish to express our support for recently introduced Senate bill for the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence ("TRACED") Act.¹

As you are aware, in recent years there has been a growing wave of undesired spoofed telemarketing calls that threatens the peace and tranquility of Tennessee households and businesses. The technology used to spoof or otherwise conceal the origin of the unwanted calls has impeded the ability to vigorously enforce Tennessee's Do Not Call program. Moreover, these are not simply inconvenient telemarketing calls. There are those that use spoofed calls to defraud and swindle. Tennessee is not alone and the issue is nationwide. This problem is not going away without industry wide cooperation with state and federal authorities. As such, the Tennessee Public Utility Commission supports the consideration and passage of the recently introduced Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act ("TRACED") Act.

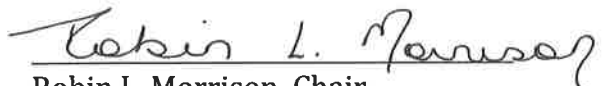
The proposed TRACED Act may not resolve all aspects of this ongoing problem, but it represents a credible and bipartisan effort with concrete steps toward providing regulators the ability to identify and pursue those that have to date flaunted the law. The TRACED Act gives voice service providers between twelve and eighteen months from enactment to establish and implement a call authentication framework. The

¹ Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act, S. 151, 116th Cong. (1st Sess. 2019).

implementation of the STIR/SHAKEN authentication framework in the internet protocol networks of voice providers should greatly reduce the number of calls. This and other provisions of the TRACED Act will provide the industry and regulators the tools to identify bad actors and allow for more effective enforcement.

Thank you for your work on this matter, which is of crucial importance to our agency and State. We support and encourage timely enactment of the TRACED Act.

Sincerely,


Robin L. Morrison, Chair


Kenneth C. Hill, Vice-Chair


Herbert H. Hilliard, Commissioner


David F. Jones, Commissioner


John Hie, Commissioner