

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
FINANCE
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

October 9, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Mr. John Stankey
Chief Executive Officer, AT&T
208 S Akard Street
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Stankey:

I write today seeking answers regarding the egregious invasion of privacy that your company—along with another carrier—inflicted upon eight United States Senators and one Member of Congress. On Monday evening, we first learned that the Biden Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spied on duly elected members of Congress, specifically seeking and ultimately obtaining “tolling data” from cell phones as part of its corrupt, politically motivated Arctic Frost investigation.

As part of the Jack Smith investigation that was a weaponized witch hunt to target President Trump, the Biden Department of Justice issued subpoenas to your company in 2023 regarding our cell phone records, gaining access to the time, recipient, duration, and location of calls placed on our devices from January 4, 2021, to January 7, 2021. We have also learned that, to our knowledge, there was ***no criminal predicate*** for the Biden Department of Justice issuing subpoenas to obtain these cell phone records.

While Director Kash Patel and Attorney General Pam Bondi continue to investigate this matter and root out the bad actors at their agencies, one thing is abundantly clear: we need answers ***immediately*** as to why your company allowed this invasion of privacy to occur wholly unchallenged. Please respond to the following questions by **5:00 PM on Thursday, October 16, 2025**:

1. Who at your company made the decision to approve this unprecedented, targeted invasion of privacy of eight United States Senators and one Member of Congress?
2. Please provide the exact date on which this decision to spy on Republican federal officials was authorized.
3. Please explain the rationale behind your company’s decision to decline to move to quash these subpoenas.
4. Can you confirm that the tolling data does not include the content of the calls that were examined in this investigation?

5. As noted above, we are not aware of *any* criminal predicate under which the FBI sought to spy on Members of Congress and infringe upon our privacy. Can you confirm that there was no predicate behind these actions?
6. Of the Members who are your customers, did you provide the cell phone records of their personal devices, their official government devices, or both?
7. Can you confirm that your company provided *no notice* of this invasion of privacy to any of the United States Senators or the Member of Congress who were your customers?
8. What steps—if any—did your company take to protect the privacy of the Members of Congress listed on the FBI document that has been released to the public?¹

We deserve transparency on this invasion of privacy, and I can assure you that accountability is coming. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

¹ See https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/arctic_frost_toll_analysis_of_us_senators.pdf.