



March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

Re: OPEN Government Data Act, S. 760

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member McCaskill,

On behalf of BSA | The Software Alliance, I am writing to express strong support for the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary ("OPEN") Government Data Act (S. 760). We appreciate your support for this legislation last year, and hope it can be passed quickly this year.

Passage of the OPEN Government Data Act would make non-sensitive government data more open, available, and usable for the general public. BSA strongly supports the bill because government data sets are a national resource that can serve as a powerful new job-creation engine and a catalyst for economic growth.

BSA members develop cutting edge technologies that unlock the value of data. Their software-enabled data solutions are transforming the world around us, empowering us as individuals, and growing our economy. The economic impact of such data innovation is profound, adding more than a trillion dollars to the US economy per year, supporting nearly 10 million jobs nationwide, driving economic gains in all 50 states, and expanding America's economic potential across numerous sectors. Given these impacts, it is no surprise that 90 percent of business leaders cite data innovation as one of the key resources and a key differentiator for businesses, on par with basic resources like land, labor, and capital.

Much as the freeing up of Global Positioning System data for public use in the 1990s led to a new multi-billion-dollar industry, the OPEN Government Data Act would allow entrepreneurs to leverage preexisting government data sets to create new value-added services. Even better, the Congressional Budget Office scored the version of the OPEN Government Data Act that unanimously passed the Senate last year to be virtually cost free.

The OPEN Government Data Act is an important opportunity for Congress to grow the economy and create jobs without affecting the budget. It is our hope that your committee will advance this bill at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views and we look forward to working with you on this issue and all other opportunities to expand economic growth and create jobs.

Sincerely,

Victoria A. Espinel
President and CEO



March 30, 2017

The Honorable Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government
Reform
United States House of Representatives

Re: OPEN Government Data Act, H.R. 1770

Dear Chairman Chaffetz and Ranking Member Cummings,

On behalf of BSA | The Software Alliance, I am writing to express strong support for the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary ("OPEN") Government Data Act (H.R. 1770). Passage of the OPEN Government Data Act would make non-sensitive government data more open, available, and usable for the general public. BSA strongly supports the bill because government data sets are a national resource that can serve as a powerful new job-creation engine and a catalyst for economic growth.

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