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March 13, 2015  
Honorable Mark Leno  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 178 (Leno) – Support**

Dear Senator Leno,

TURN–The Utility Reform Network, on behalf of our 20,000 members, strongly supports SB 178 - The California Electronic Communications Privacy Act, which safeguards the rights of Californians by updating California privacy law for the modern digital world.

The right to privacy is cherished by TURN members throughout California who have made it clear to us that they don't want their smart meter usage data, text messages, calendar datebooks, or any of their private electronic communications monitored or collected by law enforcement agencies without a warrant signed by a judge.

SB 178 creates clear expectations about our right to privacy. It will make sure that the police go to a judge and get a warrant before they can access sensitive information, including data from personal electronic devices, emails, digital documents, text messages, and location information under normal circumstances. The bill also includes thoughtful exceptions that acknowledge legitimate public safety needs. The bill's notice, reporting, and enforcement provisions make sure that there is proper transparency and oversight mechanisms to ensure that the law is followed.

The price of California residents benefiting from the fruits of new technology should not be losing their rights to privacy and basic respect as human beings. TURN supports SB 178 as a solution supported by the state's leading technology companies and organizations, along with a bipartisan group of legislators to make sure that Californians are not forced to choose between using new technology and their privacy, and that California's technology companies are not burdened with privacy laws stuck in the digital dark ages.

Thank you for exercising your leadership by introducing this important legislation and TURN is happy to support SB 178 during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark W. Toney". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark W. Toney, Ph.D.  
Executive Director