



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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May 20, 2010

Attorney General Martha Coakley

One Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

Dear Attorney General:

I am writing to request that you initiate an investigation of the much publicized privacy questions which have been made public over the last several days involving the use by Google of data obtained in creating its Street View product. As this feature exists in a number of Massachusetts regions, I am concerned about the privacy impact on our state's citizens and the possible violations of various state statutes.


Google has admitted that while traveling streets and photographing locations worldwide for its Google Street View, it simultaneously accessed private wireless networks in the area and amassed a large quantity of personal data from these networks. The personal data is thought to contain items such as email messages, information on online banking accounts, website browsing history, and numerous other types of private information.

As a strong advocate for privacy protection and identity theft protection, I am concerned that this wealth of personal information collected by Google without notice or consent leaves the public at great risk.

Specifically, I am writing to request your assistance in investigating whether or not this accessing of personal information without providing notice or consent is in violation of any current Massachusetts laws, including Massachusetts General Law Chapter 93A and/or any other type of privacy, identity theft, trespass, or wiretapping legislation or regulation in effect within the state.

I appreciate your consideration of my request. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or require more information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Straus". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Respectfully,".

William M. Straus

State Representative