

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 23, 2015

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The proliferation of connected technologies, known as the Internet of Things (IoT), is generating a significant interest among consumers, the private sector, and policymakers. Earlier this year, the Senate Commerce Committee held a full committee hearing on the topic. The Senate also recently passed a bipartisan resolution (S.Res.110) outlining the need for a strategy to bolster U.S. innovation for economic growth and consumer empowerment.

Given the growth in IoT as well as the way new technologies are being embedded in millions of everyday products, a more robust analysis of the challenges and opportunities associated with the IoT is needed. Policymakers and regulators continue to explore what privacy and security measures would be appropriate for various IoT applications given how the technologies are evolving so quickly. Growth in demand for Internet addresses and various spectrum management needs of the IoT may also increase demands on our existing communications infrastructure. Additionally, while efforts are ongoing by several groups, there is interest in the question of whether technical standards are needed for various devices to efficiently communicate with each other and with users.

Since the rapid emergence of IoT presents significant implications for consumers, businesses, and government, we request the GAO conduct an assessment on the impact of IoT on the economy and users. Specifically, we request you assess the following issues:

1. What is the current state of IoT technology? Are there sectors where these technologies are more widely adopted? If so, why is IoT being adopted in some sectors more easily than others?
2. What is the federal government's experience regarding its own use of IoT?
3. Do any agencies have a strategy to enable the use of IoT? If so, what recommendations have agencies made with respect to IoT? Are any government recommendations currently being carried out? What recommendations require changes in federal law?
4. What barriers to entry have federal agencies identified for IoT businesses? To what extent is there federal coordination among agencies on IoT oversight?

5. What is the projected impact of ubiquitous IoT on consumer privacy and security?
6. What is the projected impact of increased IoT demand on spectrum availability? What spectrum capacity limitations and opportunities currently exist for IoT operations?
7. What proposals have foreign governments adopted to promote or regulate IoT, and what has been the estimated impact of those policies?

Thank you for your timely attention to this request. We look forward to working with you and learning more about the challenges and opportunities surrounding the IoT.

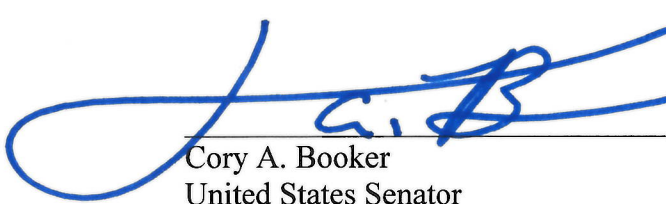
Sincerely,



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator