



**Testimony of
JAKE LESTOCK
CTIA**

Opposition Unless Amended to House Bill 1089

Before the Maryland House Economic Matters Committee

March 10, 2024

Chair Valderrama, Vice-Chair Charkoudian, and members of the committee, on behalf of CTIA®, the trade association for the wireless communications industry, I submit this testimony in opposition unless amended to House Bill 1089. Our members support strong consumer privacy protections, are committed to responsible data practices, and have long supported clear, workable privacy frameworks that protect consumers while enabling innovation. We are writing to request a small but important amendment to the definition of “data broker” to ensure the bill does not result in unintended consequences for Maryland businesses.

As currently drafted, the definition of data broker would apply to the third-party recipient, rather than with the data broker itself. Without this clarification, the definition as written could inadvertently capture businesses that have a direct relationship with the consumer, such as wireless carriers and their service providers, even though those entities are not the target of this legislation.

We respectfully request that the definition be revised to read:



“Data Broker” means a business that knowingly collects and sells or licenses personal consumer data of consumers ~~to third parties~~ with whom the business ~~consumer~~ does not have a direct relationship to third parties.

This change clarifies that the relevant relationship — or lack thereof — is between the data broker and the consumer whose data is being sold, which more accurately captures the harm the bill seeks to address. CTIA believes this targeted amendment will strengthen the definition without limiting its intended scope.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment.