ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115

Majority (202) 225–2927 Minority (202) 225–3641

June 28, 2018

Mr. Matt Oczkowski President Data Propria 321 6th St San Antonio, TX 78215-1842

Dear Mr. Oczkowski:

We are deeply concerned with protecting the privacy of consumers. Given news reports indicating that Data Propria is being led by former Cambridge Analytica employees, including yourself, we believe the American people must be assured that Data Propria is not using consumer data wrongfully obtained by Cambridge Analytica or engaging in other inappropriate practices. To that end, we are writing to request that Data Propria brief the members and staff of the Committee on Energy & Commerce regarding Data Propria's data collection and use practices and policies by July 19, 2018.

As you know, Cambridge Analytica misused Facebook users' data collected through a personality test app developed by Aleksandr Kogan of Global Science Research.² The data was sold to Cambridge Analytica in violation of Facebook's app developer policies.³ Cambridge Analytica used the improperly obtained data to target U.S. voters with political ads in the 2016 election.⁴ And while Cambridge Analytica reportedly told Facebook that the data had been destroyed in 2015, reporters from *The New York Times* said they had seen the data, or parts of the data, first hand earlier this year.⁵ At this point, it is unknown whether any previous employees of Cambridge Analytica might still have access to this data.

¹ A Cambridge Analytica Alum Launches a New Data Firm, Wired (May 29, 2018) (www.wired.com/story/data-propria-data-cambridge-analytica/).

² Revealed: 50 Million Facebook Profiles Harvested for Cambridge Analytica in Major Data Breach, Guardian (Mar. 17, 2018)

 $^{^3}$ Id.

⁴ *Id*.

⁵ Facebook and Cambridge Analytica: What You Need to Know as Fallout Widens, New York Times (Mar. 19, 2018); Facebook-Cambridge Analytica: A Timeline of the Data Hijacking

You have acknowledged in interviews with press that the work of Data Propria will be very similar to Cambridge Analytica.⁶ The admitted overlap between the personnel and work of Cambridge Analytica and Data Propria raises serious concerns about Data Propria's practices regarding the collection and use of Americans' personal information. At the requested briefing, Data Propria should be prepared to discuss the following:

- 1. Whether Data Propria has any data obtained by Cambridge Analytica from Aleksandr Kogan in its possession;
- 2. Whether Data Propria has any data obtained directly from Aleksandr Kogan or Global Science Research in its possession;
- 3. Whether Data Propria obtained any data about Facebook users through other third-party apps on Facebook (and if so, which apps) or from Facebook through any other means, including Data Propria's own app on Facebook;
- 4. Whether Data Propria obtained data about consumers through any other internet advertising services or data brokers and if so, which services or data brokers;
- 5. Whether Data Propria obtain Americans' data that it uses for its political consulting services; and
- 6. Whether Data Propria is providing consumers with notice of how it uses and shares their information.

Scandal, CNBC (Apr. 10, 2018) (www.cnbc.com/2018/04/10/facebook-cambridge-analytica-a-timeline-of-the-data-hijacking-scandal.html).

⁶ A Cambridge Analytica Alum Launches a New Data Firm, Wired (May 29, 2018) (www.wired.com/story/data-propria-data-cambridge-analytica/).

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Please contact Caroline Paris-Behr with the Democratic Committee staff at (202) 225-3641 to schedule this briefing. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Ranking Member

Mike Doyle

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Communications

and Technology

Jan Schakowsky

Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Digital Commerce

and Consumer Protection