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U.S. Representative

Joe Barton

Chairman, Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality

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BARTON JOINS SENATORS SHELBY, DODD, REPRESENTATIVE MARKEY FOR PRIVACY CAUCUS KICK-OFF

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Today, U.S. Representative Joe Barton joined his fellow co-Chairman to announce the agenda for the Congressional Privacy Caucus (CPC) for the 107th Congress. The Chairmen are joined this Congress by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT), who replaces retired Senator Richard Bryan (D-NV) as the new Democratic Senate Co-Chairman of the Caucus. Senator Dodd has long been a Senate leader on privacy, and has introduced legislation to protect medical and student privacies.

The CPC's first event will be a hearing on "web bugs," which will be held the final week in February. "Web bugs" are used by organizations to make financial gains by tracking user behavior on the web. They are used as a tool for tracking individual users' movements on the internet, and what sites they view. Through this method, a user's profile can be "recreated" over time, allowing advertisers to direct information specifically to an individual user. Web bugs can also be used through email capability. By linking to your email address, web bugs allow your web-surfing history to be tracked more efficiently, and in more detail, than do "cookies."

"I am pleased to rejoin Senator Shelby and Representative Markey, and to welcome Senator Dodd, as chairs of the Congressional Privacy Caucus (CPC). The CPC moved the ball a long way legislatively in the last Congress, and I expect that we'll be successful in passing substantial privacy legislation this Congress. The business community has come a long way in the past two years toward policing and protecting the privacy of our citizens, but there is still much work ahead for the Caucus."

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