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cc: SH

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cc:
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May 25, 2006

David O'Brien, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Public Services
112 State Street, Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2601

Re: Information request pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 206

Dear Commissioner O'Brien:

This responds to your letter of May 17, 2006, in which you posed a number of questions arising from recent reports that AT&T and other telephone companies have provided information to the National Security Agency (NSA). While there has been much speculation in the news media, I want to make it clear that AT&T does not give customer information to law enforcement authorities or government agencies without legal authorization.

AT&T understands that it has an obligation to assist law enforcement and other government agencies responsible for protecting the public welfare, whether it be an individual or the security interests of the entire nation. At the same time, we prize the trust our customers place in us. If and when AT&T is asked by a governmental agency for assistance, we do so strictly within the law. Beyond that, AT&T cannot comment on matters of national security. Questions regarding such matters must be addressed on a national basis.

Very Truly Yours,

cc: Honorable James Douglas, Governor
James Volz, Chairman, Vermont Public Service Board
William Sorrell, Vermont Attorney General

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