

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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February 26, 2026

Mr. Jamie Siminoff
CEO
Ring, an Amazon.com, Inc. company
12515 Cerise Avenue
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Dear Mr. Siminoff:

I am writing to express deep concern over a commercial Ring aired during Super Bowl LX regarding a new feature called “Search Party.” According to Ring, Search Party uses artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities in Ring doorbell cameras to search recordings for lost pets. While finding lost pets is an admirable mission, the use of AI to scan doorbell camera recordings raises serious privacy concerns related to the potential for mass surveillance of people and implications for 4th Amendment rights.¹

The Ring commercial that aired during the Super Bowl explains how Search Party can be used to identify lost pets: “When a pet owner posts about a lost dog in the Ring app, nearby participating outdoor Ring cameras in the neighborhood begin looking for potential matches. If your [Ring camera] spots what might be the missing dog, it lets you know. You see the photo alongside footage from your camera, then can choose to share the video with the pet’s owner.”²

As described, this feature allows Ring to access and scan recordings from cameras throughout a neighborhood, creating a 24/7 surveillance network in a community with only passive consent from the camera owner and limited-at-best awareness from the neighbors in the same community. Because this program is opt-out, the Search Party function is automatically enabled for Ring devices that save video recordings to the cloud, and users have to go through a six-step process within the Ring app to disable the technology.³ This opt-out design is confusing for users, raises concerns of widespread unintentional surveillance of neighborhoods, and may leave people unaware of the full extent to which Ring and its parent company Amazon are able

¹ *Can Ring’s New Search Party Mode Track Humans? We Unpack the Controversial Feature*, CNET (Feb. 13, 2026) (online at www.cnet.com/home/security/what-does-rings-search-party-ai-pet-tracking-do-to-your-privacy-i-got-the-details/).

² Ring, *Keeping Your Community Safe with Search Party* (online at <https://ring.com/support/articles/pkhj7/search-party>) (accessed Feb. 24, 2026).

³ *Id.*

to monitor neighborhood activity.⁴ The Search Party feature also means that Ring has the ability to search a vast network of privately-owned Ring cameras that are constantly recording, including in and around sensitive locations like hospitals, schools, clinics, or courthouses. Although Ring currently describes the Search Party function as a tool for identifying dogs, the video recordings captured by Ring cameras also include people, meaning that Ring cameras are conducting constant monitoring without the explicit consent of the Ring camera owner or the individuals captured by the doorbell cameras.⁵ Notably, your founder, Jamie Siminoff, reportedly told employees that while Search Party was “first for finding dogs,” the feature or similar features would be expanded to “zero out crime in neighborhoods.”⁶

Ring unveiled its Search Party technology only a few months after the company announced a partnership with Flock Safety. In October 2025, Flock announced it would be partnering with Ring’s Community Requests feature to allow users to “privately share helpful video footage with local public safety agencies during an active investigation.”⁷ Flock uses automated license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras, vehicle identification technology, and AI features to identify vehicles and share information with law enforcement.⁸ I have been investigating the ways in which state and federal authorities have used Flock’s technology to undermine state laws protecting civil rights, including reproductive rights and immigrant rights. For example, Texas authorities leveraged Flock’s 83,000 ALPR cameras—including those in states that protect access to reproductive healthcare—to track down a woman who had an abortion.⁹ Others clearly share my concern about your partnership with Flock—following pushback in recent weeks, you cancelled this planned partnership.¹⁰

⁴ *Can Ring’s New Search Party Mode Track Humans? We Unpack the Controversial Feature*, CNET (Feb. 13, 2026) (online at www.cnet.com/home/security/what-does-rings-search-party-ai-pet-tracking-do-to-your-privacy-i-got-the-details/).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Leaked Email Suggests Ring Plans to Expand “Search Party” Surveillance Beyond Dogs*, 404 Media (Feb. 18, 2026) (online at www.404media.co/leaked-email-suggests-ring-plans-to-expand-search-party-surveillance-beyond-dogs/?ref=daily-stories-newsletter).

⁷ Flock Safety, *Flock Safety and Ring Partner to Help Neighborhoods Work Together for Safer Communities* (Oct. 31, 2025) (online at www.flocksafety.com/blog/flock-safety-and-ring-partner-to-help-neighborhoods-work-together-for-safer-communities).

⁸ See Flock Safety, *The Future of Investigations: How Flock’s New AI-Powered Tools Are Transforming Vehicular Evidence* (Feb. 14, 2025) (online at www.flocksafety.com/blog/the-future-of-investigations-how-flocks-new-ai-powered-tools-are-transforming-vehicular-evidence).

⁹ *She Got an Abortion. So a Texas Cop Used 83,000 Cameras to Track Her Down.*, Electronic Frontier Foundation (May 30, 2025) (online at <https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2025/05/she-got-abortion-so-texas-cop-used-83000-cameras-track-her-down>).

¹⁰ *Amazon No Longer Working with Controversial Police Tech Company After Backlash Over Ring Doorbell Super Bowl Ad*, NBC News (Feb. 12, 2026) (online at www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/amazon-no-longer-working-police-tech-flock-safety-super-bowl-ad-rcna258855).

Approximately 10 million Americans have Ring video doorbells.¹¹ Ring must take responsibility for the sensitive data and images that those doorbells collect. All people have a right to be safe in their homes and neighborhoods, but that must not come at the cost of Ring being able to scan, on its own initiative, round-the-clock footage of people in a community without their consent or knowledge. I have previously written to Ring regarding your privacy practices and your comfort surveilling Americans, and I am disturbed to see that in more than five years you have failed to put in place stronger protections to safeguard user and neighborhood privacy.¹²

To ensure that the public at large cannot be tracked without their knowledge or consent by potentially unaccountable and hostile officials, we request the following information and documents by March 12, 2026:

1. A detailed explanation of how Ring devices collect, classify, and track video recordings and data, including, but not limited to, how that data is used in connection with Ring's new AI feature "Search Party";
2. A detailed explanation of how Ring determines what personally identifiable information is stored on Ring cameras, and whether and how that information is used for training AI models;
3. Ring's policies and procedures regarding the collection and storage of Ring camera footage and related data, including, but not limited to, how and when law enforcement and other third-party entities can access that data and whether Ring requires a warrant, subpoena, or court order in order to share that data with law enforcement;
4. Documents and communications related to the use or potential of Search Party or other Ring doorbell camera features to identify individuals, including but not limited to efforts to prevent or respond to criminal activity;
5. A detailed description of what Ring camera footage and related data is shared with Flock and the permissions granted to Flock to store, use, and/or share that information;

¹¹ *The Privacy Loophole in Your Doorbell*, Politico (Mar. 7, 2023) (online at www.politico.com/news/2023/03/07/privacy-loophole-ring-doorbell-00084979).

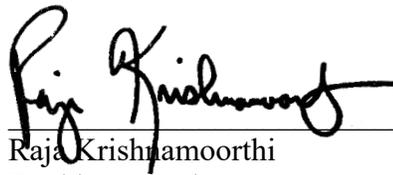
¹² Letter from Chairman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, to Mr. Brian Huseman, Vice President of Public Policy, Amazon.com Inc. (Feb. 19, 2020) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2020-02-19.RK%20to%20Huseman-A%20re%20Ring%20%281%29.pdf>).

6. A detailed description of how Ring responds to requests for information from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), and any other federal or state law enforcement agency; and
7. Any contracts, memoranda of understanding, or agreements between Ring and any federal agency, including but not limited to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), or any other federal or state law enforcement agency.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The Committee on House Administration has oversight jurisdiction over matters regarding federal elections under House Rule X.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Committee Democratic staff at (202) 225-5051. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Raja Krishnamoorthi
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Health Care and
Financial Services

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman

The Honorable Glenn Grothman, Chairman
Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services