

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

Re: Perry-García Amendment to Ban Flock Automatic License Plate Readers

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

We urge the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to support Rep. Scott Perry and Rep. Chuy García's amendment to the Highway Bill that would restrict the use of automatic license plate readers except for tolling purposes. The rapid growth of this surveillance technology in recent years, led in large part by the company Flock Safety, poses a serious threat to the privacy, civil liberties, and constitutional rights of Americans.

Americans' concerns about government surveillance reach back to the Founding itself. The Founders were well aware of the powers and risks of an almighty government with unrestricted surveillance powers. That is why they formulated the Fourth Amendment to protect us from unreasonable searches, and modern courts have found that automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology [can be unreasonable](#). Surveillance infrastructure like this does not stay within the uses its architects intend, and when it expands, it is people of faith, political minorities, and communities already subject to over-policing who bear the consequences first. In this 250th year since the Founding, we must put freedom first.

Today, Flock Safety contracts with more than [5,000 law enforcement agencies](#) and operates over [80,000 AI-powered cameras](#) across 49 states. These cameras photograph every vehicle that passes, regardless of any suspicion of wrongdoing. All the data collected—license plate data, vehicle descriptions, location, and time—are stored, and a majority of that data is in a centralized, searchable national database that is accessible to law enforcement on demand without court approval. And while Flock is the largest and most aggressive operator, these concerns apply to ALPR technology industry wide as any system that photographs every passing vehicle, stores that data, and makes it searchable by law enforcement without court approval poses the same fundamental threats to privacy and civil liberties.

Flock Safety's automatic license plate reader technology has expanded in recent years to become a mass domestic surveillance tool. Flock introduced [AI analytics products](#) that shift the company from providing tools for officials to use in existing investigations to proactively generating suspicion that rises to the level of warranting an investigation. Flock technology scans the movement patterns of all vehicles in its national dataset and alerts law enforcement if it perceives

movements as suspicious or criminal. The “[Convoy Search](#)” feature allows police to track vehicles frequently seen together, enabling the surveillance of Americans’ free associations even without existing suspicion of criminal activity. Flock also launched live video feeds on its cameras, a significant expansion beyond the still-image capture that was used to justify the technology to communities when they considered adopting it in the first place.

Flock’s data-sharing practices have also raised local concerns. Town officials in Hillsborough, North Carolina canceled their contract with Flock, citing concerns about data privacy. [The contract included language](#) that could be interpreted as allowing Flock to disclose data to any government entity or third party based on a “good faith belief” of a need to do so. In California, the state attorney general [sued the City of El Cajon](#) after discovering that Flock’s system had facilitated data sharing with agencies in hundreds of outside jurisdictions, in violation of state privacy law. A Colorado resident who was investigated without cause using Flock surveillance footage [was told](#) by the law enforcement official, “You can't get a breath of fresh air in or out without us knowing.”

The system’s security vulnerabilities present additional serious privacy concerns. In 2025, at least [60 of Flock's AI-powered surveillance cameras](#) were found exposed online without password protection, allowing anyone with a link to watch live feeds and access up to 30 days of archived video, including footage of unattended children on a playground, which shows that Flock is no longer just about road traffic. Flock cameras [can be physically compromised](#) in seconds with exposed USB ports, hardcoded Wi-Fi network names, unencrypted image storage, and no two-factor authentication required for the police portal used to access sensitive data. In November, Sen. Wyden and Rep. Krishnamoorthi [urged the Federal Trade Commission](#) to investigate Flock for failing to implement adequate cybersecurity protections.

At least [53 cities across 20 states](#) have terminated or rejected Flock camera usage, with [many citing](#) privacy concerns and the risks of a system over which they have little meaningful control. As the [FBI prepares to spend](#) \$36 million on a nationwide license plate reader system capable of tracking any vehicle in “near real time,” it is more critical than ever that Congress shields Americans from being subjected to warrantless, suspicionless tracking of their everyday lives.

Reps. Perry and Garcia’s amendment offers a direct solution to invasive surveillance practices: restricting the use of automatic license plate readers except for the purpose of tolling. We urge Members of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to support this critical step in protecting the privacy rights of all Americans.

Sincerely,

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cc: Members of the Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure