

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, November 19, 2009

CONTACT: MARA LEE

(202) 225-7163

Matsui Calls for Increased Transparency and Privacy Protections for Consumers
Says "In Today's Economy, Information Is Everything - To Everyone"

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-05) participated in the Communications, Technology and the Internet and Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee joint hearing, "Exploring the Offline and Online Collection and Use of Consumer Information." As a member of both subcommittees, Representative Matsui has been vocal in calling for increased transparency and privacy safeguards for consumers. Representative Matsui's opening statement, as prepared for delivery, is below:

"Today, we are here to examine the collection and commercial use of consumer information across the offline, online, and mobile marketplace. Without their knowledge or approval, personal information of consumers is being collected each day through a number of methods whether it be over the internet, or shopping at the grocery store, or even ordering take-out from their favorite local restaurant.

"In today's economy, information is everything - to everyone. Unfortunately, it is essentially impossible to protect one's personal information these days. And it is understandable that most Americans simply do not trust that their personal information is properly protected.

"Privacy policies and disclosures should be clear and transparent so consumers can choose what information, if any, they want others to know, instead of inappropriate collection and misuse of their information. Consumers should also understand the scope of information that is being collected, what it is being used for, the length of time it is retained, and its security. The more information that consumers have - the better.

"Moving forward, we must ensure that Americans feel secure that their personal information will not be misused the next time they surf the internet, or go out to a restaurant, or shop at a department store. Meaningful privacy safeguards should be in place, while ensuring that we

don't stifle innovation.”

#