

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051  
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<http://oversight.house.gov>

August 1, 2019

Mr. Jeffrey P. Bezos  
Chief Executive Officer  
Amazon.com, Inc.  
410 Terry Ave. N  
Seattle, WA 98109

Dear Mr. Bezos:

On July 29, 2019, Capital One disclosed that its systems had been breached by an outside individual.<sup>1</sup> While its analysis is ongoing, Capital One estimates this breach affected 106 million individuals in the United States and Canada.<sup>2</sup> The outside individual allegedly responsible for the breach gained access to credit card application information, as well as approximately 140,000 Social Security numbers and approximately 80,000 bank account numbers.<sup>3</sup> To date, this is one of the largest data breaches at a major financial institution.<sup>4</sup>

According to court filings, the Capital One data was stored on a cloud storage service provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS).<sup>5</sup> The outside individual who accessed the data was allegedly a former AWS employee.<sup>6</sup> Because AWS will provide the trusted Internet connection and cloud support for the 2020 Census and could potentially run the Department of Defense's Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure cloud computing system,<sup>7</sup> the Committee may carefully examine the consequences of this breach.

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<sup>1</sup> Press Release, Capital One Financial Corp., Capital One Announces Data Security Incident (Jul. 29, 2019), <http://press.capitalone.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=251626&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=2405043>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Nicole Hong et al., *Capital One Reports Data Breach Affecting 100 Million Customers, Applicants*, WALL ST. J. (Jul. 29, 2019), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/capital-one-reports-data-breach-11564443355>.

<sup>5</sup> *United States v. Thompson*, No. MJ19-0344 (W.D. Wash. Filed July 29, 2019).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, 2020 Census Operational Plan v4.0 (2018); Frank Konkel, *Pentagon's JEDI Contract Clears Legal Hurdle But Others Remain*, NEXTGOV (Jul. 29, 2019), <https://www.nextgov.com/it-modernization/2019/07/pentagons-jedi-contract-clears-legal-hurdle-others-remain/158779/>.

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We respectfully request a staff-level briefing no later than August 15, 2019, on the current status of AWS security protocols in place to ensure the security of sensitive personal and government data. If you have any questions, please contact the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.


Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member



Michael Cloud  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Economic  
and Consumer Policy



Mark Meadows  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Government  
Operations

Cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman  
The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman, Subcommittee on Economic and  
Consumer Policy  
The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Operations