



# PROTECTING SOUTH DAKOTA CONSUMERS

*Thune fights to give consumers more choices online*

As the former chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the current ranking member of the Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband, Sen. Thune has prioritized efforts to protect consumers, both online and offline.

## **Highlights of Sen. Thune's Work to Protect Consumers Online:**

- Sen. Thune's Consumer Review Freedom Act was signed into law in 2016. This legislation allowed consumers to share honest reviews online without the fear of legal retaliation.
- Sen. Thune has worked to protect consumers' privacy by questioning technology experts at both full and subcommittee hearings. Additionally, he joined several of his colleagues in introducing legislation, the SAFE Data Act, to provide Americans with more choice and control over their data and direct businesses to be more transparent and accountable for their data practices.

## **Highlights of Sen. Thune's Commitment to Ending Illegal Robocalls:**

- Sen. Thune's Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act (S. 151) was signed into law in 2019. The TRACED Act gives regulators more time to find scammers, increases civil forfeiture
- penalties for those who are caught, promotes call authentication and blocking adoption, and brings relevant federal agencies and state attorneys general together to address impediments to criminal prosecution of robocallers who intentionally flout laws.
- In 2018, Sen. Thune led a hearing where he questioned Adrian Abramovich, a notorious robocaller, who testified under subpoena and faced \$120 million in FCC penalties for allegedly making nearly 100 million robocalls nationwide. Thune also heard from industry and government experts at a hearing he held in 2019 about the need for additional tools to tackle illegal callers.
- In 2021, Sen. Thune introduced the Robocall Trace Back Enhancement Act to help bolster privately led efforts to trace back the origins of illegal and bothersome robocalls.

## Highlights of Sen. Thune's Work to Tackle Big Tech:

- South Dakotans deserve to know how Big Tech is using their data, and Sen. Thune has authored several pieces of legislation and helped lead hearings to review online harms. In 2016, Thune raised concerns with Facebook's "trendy topics" after it was found to have significant bias against more conservative news outlets.
- Through a number of hearings, Sen. Thune has questioned executives from Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and others about their use of algorithms and the dangers they present.
- Sen. Thune's PACT Act seeks to increase accountability for big internet platforms and enhance transparency regarding content moderation for online consumers while exposing Big Tech bias.
- Sen. Thune's Filter Bubble Transparency Act would make it easier for consumers to understand the potential manipulation that exists with secret algorithms and require large-scale platforms to allow those users to consume information outside of that potential manipulation zone or "filter bubble."