Apple Spy Lockout shareholder remarks

I'm David Levitt, a fellow shareholder. I'm introducing the Spy Lockout proposal to regain our users' trust, which has been shaken ever since Apple was implicated in the NSA's bulk surveillance programs last June.

The Spy Lockout plan is simple common sense for any company truly committed to data security. Adopt best practices for security and encryption, as recommended by experts like the Electronic Frontier Foundation. Keep third party equipment off our networks. Investigate and stop invasions of user privacy. And when cooperating with police, require a warrant of limited duration, for a specific person or thing, instead of bulk collection.

The Spy Lockout proposal isn't in your shareholders' proxy materials. By the September proxy deadline, we hadn't yet learned how providers are threatened and coerced into breaking the law. Internet providers like Lavabit were still gagged.

So today the full set of Apple shareholders can't vote to compel Apple's directors to implement a Spy Lockout. Apple's directors will have to do it themselves, as a matter of both conscience and wise business practice. This is too urgent to wait another year.

Business leaders have successfully stood up to overreaching government power before. The McCarthy era Hollywood blacklist was ended not by our government, but by brave movie makers willing to challenge it.

In 1960 Universal Studios and the producers of Spartacus dared to include blacklisted writer Dalton Trumbo's name on the movie, and almost instantly the government run blacklist that had ruined so many innocent lives was over. Then Spartacus made more money than any other movie in history.

Apple can follow a similar path – leading our industry's escape from vast, wasteful surveillance that has invaded every home in America without catching a single terrorist or commie. Apple can earn back the trust of users the world over, and reap well deserved financial rewards.

It starts with having the courage to protect our constitution when our government won't. Join me in voting for the Spy Lockout today.

Vague general warrants are what the tyrannical English Kings once used, but they're not compatible with our Fourth Amendment. They also don't catch criminals

Apple has always seen doing right by its users and profiting as one and the same.

Patriotic citizens can make a difference when they stand up for our rights. In a democracy it's the only way.

Oddly enough, the people who stood up for our rights then were also accused of working for the Russians.

Apple's got to protect our constitution when the government won't.

Apple knows that doing right by its customers is the key to its success.

I spoke with Apple's privacy officer about the gotofail bug yesterday, and there has been no press release or plan to inform users about how seriously users' data has been compromised for more than a year, what kinds of attacks have been possible, and their long term effects. I suggest everyone here visit gotofail.com and learn whether your device is secure. It's been suggested that gotofail.com this information appear on Apple's home page until customers are properly informed.