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## Sunday's Letters to the Editor

- **Citizens must put limits on surveillance**

In your story "Technology targets car thieves, unpaid taxes" Tuesday, Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott is quoted as saying: "If you're just a normal citizen, what's this doing to you? This is something that is protecting our citizens. We have lots of stolen cars."

All citizens should care about the increase in surveillance technology in our communities. License-plate scanning can be legitimate when used for narrowly tailored law enforcement identification purposes such as identifying cars that have overstayed a parking limit or identifying stolen vehicles or vehicles involved in a crime. The problem is that we have no assurance that it will remain focused on wrongdoers — there are usually no standards, guidelines or controls.

Ultimately, we face the very real possibility that our every movement in an automobile will be tracked and recorded. This would represent an extremely serious reduction in the privacy Americans have always enjoyed, and should not be allowed to happen — especially without discussion or comment.

We need controls in place to prohibit the systematic recording of an individual's times and locations and the sharing of data with private companies. Otherwise, our technology has gotten ahead of our law.

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