





January 27, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

Our organizations, which represent nearly every sector of the American economy, strongly urge the Senate to quickly pass a cybersecurity information-sharing bill. Cybersecurity is a top priority of our associations and members.

The Select Committee on Intelligence passed a smart and workable bill in July 2014, which earned broad bipartisan support. Recent cyber incidents underscore the need for legislation to help businesses improve their awareness of cyber threats and to enhance their protection and response capabilities.

Above all, we need Congress to send a bill to the president that gives businesses legal certainty that they have safe harbor against frivolous lawsuits when voluntarily sharing and receiving threat indicators and countermeasures in real time and taking actions to mitigate cyberattacks.

The legislation also needs to offer protections related to public disclosure, regulatory, and antitrust matters in order to increase the timely exchange of information among public and private entities.

Our organizations also believe that legislation needs to safeguard privacy and civil liberties and establish appropriate roles for civilian and intelligence agencies. The cybersecurity measure approved last year by the Select Committee on Intelligence reflected practical compromises among many stakeholders on these issues.

Cyberattacks aimed at U.S. businesses and government entities are being launched from various sources, including sophisticated hackers, organized crime, and state-sponsored groups. These attacks are advancing in scope and complexity.

We are committed to working with lawmakers and their staff members to get cybersecurity information-sharing legislation swiftly enacted to strengthen our national security and the protection and resilience of U.S. industry. Congressional action cannot come soon enough.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
Airlines for America  
American Bankers Association  
American Chemistry Council  
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers  
American Gas Association  
American Insurance Association  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Public Power Association  
American Water Works Association  
ASIS International  
Association of American Railroads  
Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers  
CTIA–The Wireless Association  
Edison Electric Institute  
Federation of American Hospitals  
Financial Services Roundtable–BITS  
GridWise Alliance  
HIMSS–Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society  
Internet Commerce Coalition  
Large Public Power Council  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Corporate Directors  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Business Coalition on e-Commerce & Privacy  
National Cable & Telecommunications Association  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association  
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America  
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
United States Telecom Association  
Utilities Telecom Council