



July 21, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The Protecting America's Cyber Networks Coalition (the coalition) urges the Senate to take up and pass S. 754, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) of 2015. Passing cybersecurity information-sharing legislation is a top policy priority of the coalition, which is a partnership of leading business associations representing nearly every sector of the U.S. economy.

In March, the Select Committee on Intelligence passed CISA by a strong bipartisan vote (14–1). The Senate can build on the momentum generated in the House to move CISA forward. In April, the House passed two cybersecurity information-sharing bills—H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act (PCNA), and H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act (NCPAA) of 2015—with robust majorities from both parties and broad industry support.

Our organizations believe that Congress needs 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 defensive measures 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. Coalition members also believe that legislation needs to safeguard privacy and civil liberties and establish appropriate roles for government agencies and departments. CISA reflects sound compromises among many stakeholders on these issues.

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

The coalition is committed to working with lawmakers and their staff members to get cybersecurity information-sharing legislation quickly 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 (ARA)
Airlines for America (A4A)
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers
American Bankers Association (ABA)
American Cable Association (ACA)
American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI)
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers (AFPM)
American Gaming Association
American Gas Association (AGA)
American Insurance Association (AIA)
American Petroleum Institute (API)
American Public Power Association (APPA)
American Water Works Association (AWWA)
ASIS International
Association of American Railroads (AAR)
BITS–Financial Services Roundtable
College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME)
CompTIA–The Computing Technology Industry Association
CTIA–The Wireless Association
Edison Electric Institute (EEI)
Federation of American Hospitals (FAH)
Food Marketing Institute (FMI)
GridWise Alliance
HIMSS–Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society
HITRUST–Health Information Trust Alliance
Large Public Power Council (LPPC)
National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC)
National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)
National Business Coalition on e-Commerce & Privacy
National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA)
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI)
The Real Estate Roundtable
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS)
United States Telecom Association (USTelecom)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Utilities Telecom Council (UTC)