



October 19, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The Protecting America's Cyber Networks Coalition (the coalition) urges the Senate to pass S. 754, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) of 2015, which is expected to be taken up this week. Passing cybersecurity information-sharing legislation is a top policy goal of the coalition, which is a partnership of 51 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 of 14 to 1. Senators Burr and Feinstein, the authors of CISA, have revised their bill to increase its privacy protections. Among other things, the managers' amendment further limits the sharing of cyber threat data to "cybersecurity purposes." Closely related, the revised measure eliminates the government's ability to use cyber threat indicators to investigate and prosecute "serious violent felonies."

Taken together, these two changes put to rest any false claims that CISA is a "surveillance" bill. The managers' amendment also ensures that the use of defensive measures does not allow an entity to gain unauthorized access to a computer network. The bill's writers have worked diligently to address the concerns of privacy and civil liberties organizations.

Our organizations believe that Congress needs to send a bill to the president—who has signaled the administration's support for CISA—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 hold 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 Senate can build on the progress generated in the House by moving 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 backing.

The coalition is committed to working with lawmakers and their staff members to get cybersecurity information-sharing legislation quickly enacted to bolster 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 Chemistry Council (ACC)
American Coatings Association
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)
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA)
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)
Electronic Payments Coalition (EPC)
Electronic Transactions Association (ETA)
Federation of American Hospitals (FAH)
Food Marketing Institute (FMI)
Global Automakers
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 Retail Federation (NRF)
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI)
The Real Estate Roundtable
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Security Industry Association
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
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)