

Protecting America's Cyber Networks Coalition

April 21, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Protecting America's Cyber Networks Coalition supports the approaches to cybersecurity information-sharing legislation in H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act (PCNA), and H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act (NCPAA) of 2015. The coalition, which is a partnership of leading business associations representing nearly every sector of the U.S. economy, urges the House to pass PCNA and NCPAA this week. Our members are committed to helping protect America's businesses and critical infrastructure from cyber threats.

PCNA and NCPAA were recently reported out of the Intelligence and Homeland Security committees, respectively, with robust bipartisan support. Both measures go far in addressing the cybersecurity legislative priorities that the coalition wants to see enacted.

The coalition opposes any amendments that would weaken significant provisions in either bill. 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 anti-trust matters in order to increase the timely exchange of information among public and private entities. Coalition members believe that legislation needs to safeguard privacy and civil liberties and establish appropriate roles for government agencies and departments. PCNA and NCPAA reflect practical 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 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 Chemistry Council (ACC)
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)
Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers (CIAB)
CTIA–The Wireless Association
Edison Electric Institute (EEI)
Federation of American Hospitals (FAH)
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 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 (PCIAA)
The Real Estate Roundtable
Society of Chemical Manufacturers &
Affiliates (SOCMA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
United States Telecom Association (USTelecom)
Utilities Telecom Council (UTC)