





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