

May 4, 2018

Transmitted via email to:

The Hon. Patty Murray, Senator	The Hon. Maria Cantwell, Senator
The Hon. Suzan DelBene, Representative	The Hon. Rick Larsen, Representative
The Hon. Jaime Herrera Beutler, Representative	The Hon. Dan Newhouse, Representative
The Hon. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Representative	The Hon. Derek Kilmer, Representative
The Hon. Pramila Jayapal, Representative	The Hon. Dave Reichert, Representative
The Hon. Adam Smith, Representative	The Hon. Denny Heck, Representative
United States Capitol	United States Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation:

We are writing to voice our support for H.R. 3712 “The Major General Tim Lowenberg National Guard Cyber Defenders Act,” which was introduced by Congressman Kilmer in September 2017. The vast majority of you have signed onto this vital legislation, but your continued support is needed. We urge your support and action to include the language from H.R. 3712 into the FY19 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

We are cyber targets. Our firewalls are the front lines of a daily battle. We represent a low-cost option for state and non-state actors to use cyber as a weapon of mass disruption. Disrupting the weakest link in our network is not simply a brief inconvenience – it can shut down mission assurance to our military, civilian first responders, hospitals, schools, and a host of others.

Most of the Nation’s critical infrastructure is non-federal, which means existing federal cyber efforts leave states, tribes, and municipalities, as well as private industry, to fend for themselves. Today’s cyber conflict is not one that we can fight and win on our own.

H.R. 3712 authorizes the creation of National Guard Cyber Civil Support Teams in all 54 states and territories. These teams will be ready to assess and respond to full-spectrum cyber events; including emergencies, terrorist incidents and cyber-attacks. The teams are modeled after existing National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams.

Cyber civil support teams will proactively work with us, train with us and develop the relationships needed to develop preventative strategies. They will be the first to assist us during a cyber emergency. We will share information, lessons learned, best practices and build a community cyber defense among our public and private partners.

The 2018 National Security Strategy says, “America’s response to the challenges and opportunities of the cyber era will determine our future prosperity and security.” We urge your support and action to include the language from H.R. 3712 into the FY19 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Sincerely,



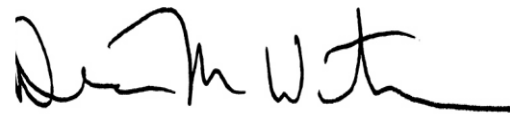
Jessica Matlock
Director, Government & External Affairs
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K. Collins Sprague
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