



## Electric Sector Support for the Goals of “Cyber Week”

Our trade associations represent the breadth and depth of the electric utility sector. Along with the nuclear industry, we are unique among critical infrastructure sectors in having a mandatory and enforceable reliability and cybersecurity standards regime. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), working with electric industry experts, regional entities, and government representatives, develops reliability and cyber security standards that, after approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Canadian governmental authorities, apply across the North American grid<sup>1</sup>. Participation by industry experts in the NERC standards development process ensures the standards are technically sound and address emerging issues.

While our reliability and cybersecurity partnerships among utilities, the federal government and other critical infrastructure sectors are working well, we have identified information-sharing processes as a place for improvement. With additional timely, actionable information from the federal government and the other sectors we depend on to produce and transmit electricity, we can do an even better job of protecting the grid. However, at times, we have experienced a lack of information flow from the federal agencies charged with collecting and interpreting cyber vulnerability and threat data.

H.R. 3523, the “Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act,” is a significant step forward in creating the culture of trust and information sharing that’s needed to strengthen protective measures across the 18 critical infrastructure sectors. We appreciate the efforts of Chairman Mike Rogers, Ranking Member Dutch Ruppersberger, and the House leadership in highlighting this important issue.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Section 215 of the Federal Power Act.