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April 23, 2012

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The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of 28,000 security professionals who are American members of ASIS International—part of 38,000 worldwide—I am writing in strong support of H.R. 3523, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act. This bill is sponsored by House Intelligence Committee Chairman Mike Rogers and Ranking Member C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger and is supported by 112 of your colleagues.

ASIS International members are security managers in all industries. They include the chief security officers (CSOs) of major American and global corporations. For those in many industries, one of their most important responsibilities is the protection of their companies and consumers from global cybersecurity threats.

This bipartisan bill would establish a voluntary information-sharing framework while imposing no new federal mandates on private citizens or business entities. It would guard Americans' privacy by prohibiting the government from forcing companies to hand over personal information and by encouraging companies to make anonymous the information that they share.

Most important, the Rogers-Ruppertsberger bill addresses the need of the private sector for timely and actionable information to protect their computer networks and customers' personal data from advanced and sophisticated attacks coming from organized crime and foreign governments. The bill also gives businesses certainty that cybersecurity information shared with the government would be provided safe harbor and would not lead to frivolous lawsuits, among other protections.

H.R. 3523 is a positive, non-regulatory bill that would help the nation chart a path forward on cybersecurity. We urge passage this week by the House of this important legislation that aims to help companies protect their networks against global cybersecurity threats.

Respectfully,

Eduard Emde
President, ASIS International

cc: Chairman Mike Rogers
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
304-HVC
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member C.A. "Dutch" Ruppertsberger
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
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