



April 9, 2013

Chairman Mike Rogers
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Ranking Member Dutch Ruppersberger
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Re: Electric Power Sector Support for H.R. 624, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA)

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Ruppersberger:

The electric power sector stakeholders appreciate your efforts in bringing forth H.R. 624, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA). Our sector currently complies with mandatory, enforceable cybersecurity standards, developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), applicable to the interconnected North American grid, and reviewed and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and applicable Canadian governmental authorities. While the sector has in place the necessary cybersecurity standards, the need for government and the private sector to freely share actionable information in a timely, confidential manner remains. CISPA is an important first step in creating the information-sharing and liability protection provisions that can help us do an even better job of protecting the nation's critical electric infrastructure.

During the seven-plus years of cybersecurity debate in Congress, nothing has changed in law to improve information-sharing. While information-sharing among some agencies and the private sector has improved over the last five years, the electric power sector can still clearly recall episodes where it took agencies far too long to inform owners and operators about potential vulnerabilities.

While we appreciate the information-sharing language in the recent White House Executive Order on cybersecurity, the Order could not provide liability protection for non-government entities that choose to share information or act upon received information. The White House has acknowledged that legislation is required

for these safeguards. We support passage of CISPA, which addresses liability protection and is at the same time respectful of the existing NERC cybersecurity standards development processes, as soon as possible and urge similar progress in the Senate.

Sincerely,

American Public Power Association

Canadian Electricity Association

Edison Electric Institute

Electric Power Supply Association

Electricity Consumers Resource Council

GridWise Alliance

Large Public Power Council

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Nuclear Energy Institute

Transmission Access Policy Study Group