

April 8, 2013

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Ranking Member, Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Ruppertsberger,

On behalf of the Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), I am writing in support of H.R. 624, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA).

Early detection and notification of cybersecurity threats is the most critical component of preventing and mitigating attacks— increasing security across the board. Unfortunately, under the current legal framework, companies, or any private entities, face risk of regulatory or legal action for sharing information that they believe could be valuable for preventing or mitigating a cybersecurity threat or incident. As a result, many suspected threats, bits of intelligence and information on thwarted attacks are currently going unreported.

SIIA supports CISPA because it would provide the critical necessary framework for early detection and notification of cybersecurity threats. Specifically, CISPA would provide needed legal certainty that threat and vulnerability information voluntarily shared with the government would be provided safe harbor against the risk of lawsuits, and it would also provide a critical exemption from antitrust laws that currently discourage information exchanges between private companies.

SIIA supported similar legislation in the last Congress, and we appreciate that in drafting this legislation you have continued to improve key elements to address privacy concerns, such as the definition of “cyber threat information” and how the government can use the information that it receives from companies and utilities.

SIIA thanks you for your continued bipartisan leadership on this issue, and we urge Committee members to support this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ken Wasch'.

Ken Wasch
President