



April 20, 2015

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

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

Later this week, the House will consider two important cybersecurity bills – H.R. 1560, the Protecting Cyber Networks Act, and H.R. 1731, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act of 2015. These bills, which were favorably reported by voice vote from the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Homeland Security Committee, respectively, would provide critically important authorizations for real-time sharing among private sector companies, and between the private sector and key government agencies, of information about cyber threat indicators. At the same time, the bills contain numerous provisions to protect Americans' privacy and civil liberties, and they make explicit in several places that in no way are these surveillance measures. *We urge the House of Representatives to pass both bills, without counterproductive amendments that would make America's information systems less safe or discourage private sector participation for fear of attracting litigation.*

Our industry is on the front lines of this fight, and our member companies have taken significant steps to protect the integrity of our networks and the security and privacy of our customers. However, every day the threats accelerate and the attacks grow more serious. Our companies' network engineers, and their counterparts in critical infrastructure industries across the economic landscape, need access to real-time, actionable cyber threat information to ward off and defend against these threats, but today's legal uncertainties prevent the private and public members of the Internet ecosystem from sharing critical cyber threat information in real-time. H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731 will resolve many of those difficulties.

These bills reflect significant work by Members on both sides of the aisle, as well as substantial input from interested stakeholders. In the Senate, S. 754, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, was reported last month from the Senate Intelligence Committee by an overwhelming vote of 14-1. With President Obama having called on Congress to pass information sharing legislation this year, we are closer than ever to achieving enactment of a cybersecurity bill that can make an enormous difference in defending against cyber attacks that, at a minimum, cause real harm to individual consumers and, at their worst, threaten to cripple our nation's economy.

We appreciate the hard work of all those involved in the process to date. Your bipartisan leadership on this issue is critical, and we stand ready to assist you in your efforts to pass these bills.

Sincerely,

Michael Powell  
President & CEO  
National Cable &  
Telecommunications Association

Meredith Attwell Baker  
President & CEO  
CTIA – The Wireless Association

Walter B. McCormick, Jr.  
President & CEO  
United States Telecom Association

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives