

November 29, 2011

The Hon. Mike Rogers, Chairman
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers:

On behalf of CTIA – The Wireless Association®, I write to thank you for your leadership in fashioning legislation to facilitate greater information sharing between the federal government and the private sector, as well as among private sector entities. Enactment of this sort of legislation will contribute significantly to the expansion of sound cybersecurity practices.

CTIA's members take significant steps today to protect the integrity of their networks and the components that contribute to the operation of those networks. They have a strong incentive to do so because their customers depend on them to provide robust, secure solutions to meet government, corporate, and individual communications needs. But we know that there are threats from groups and individuals who seek to exploit any and every vulnerability they can find for profit and political ends.

As CTIA's members seek to stay ahead of these always-evolving threats, the sharing of information between carriers, their vendors, and the federal government can help to combat these efforts. At the same time, CTIA urges you to couple information-sharing flexibility with appropriate liability protections, exemptions from FOIA, and prohibitions from using information shared for cybersecurity purposes for regulatory purposes. These safeguards will ensure that critical cyber-defense information is shielded from disclosure to parties that should not have access to it.

CTIA looks forward to working with you, Ranking Member Ruppertsberger, and the rest of your colleagues to see information sharing legislation move forward at the earliest possible date. Your legislation will promote the sort of public-private partnership that will be necessary to defeat those intent on gaining unauthorized access to public and private sector networks.

Sincerely,



Steve Largent