



Thomas R. Kuhn
President

December 15, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write today in support of H.R. 3523, the “Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2011,” which would be an important step in assisting the nation’s critical infrastructure sectors to prevent, deter and mitigate the array of cyber threats we face.

The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association of U.S. shareholder-owned electric utility companies. Our members serve 95 percent of the ultimate customers in the shareholder-owned segment of the industry, and represent approximately 70 percent of the U.S. electric power industry.

As owners, users, and operators of infrastructure critical to the defense, safety and economic well-being of the nation our members have put in place measures to deal with the potential of physical and cyber attacks on their systems. They strive to achieve the right balance between protection and prevention measures with resilience and recovery measures. This bill would help address the needs of our companies by providing timely and actionable information from government partners to protect their computer networks. It would address legal and logistical barriers that have limited the sharing of cyber threat information between and among elements of the public and private sectors. In addition, EEI expects that the information-sharing efforts envisioned in this bill would serve to supplement, rather than replace, the public-private partnerships fostered under the National Infrastructure Protection Plan framework, which continues to mature.

This bill embodies recommendations EEI has proposed for improving cyber security and information-sharing processes. The recent defense industrial base pilot project is a key model for demonstrating how government cyber threat intelligence can be shared with the private sector in an operationally usable manner.

Making cyber threat intelligence more readily useful and available is fundamental to any long-term endeavor to defend our country against potential cyber threats. EEI commends your leadership, and looks forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Kuhn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "K".

Thomas R. Kuhn

cc: The Honorable Mac Thornberry, Chair, House Republican Cybersecurity Task Force
The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger, Ranking Member, House Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence