

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Intelligence Committee
Capitol Visitor Center HVC-304
US Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Ranking Member
House Intelligence Committee
2453 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2013

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Ruppertsberger:

On behalf of the Technology Association of America (TechAmerica)¹, I am writing in support of the introduction of the “Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2013 (CISPA). We appreciate your continued leadership in making cybersecurity and information sharing a national priority. TechAmerica shares your goal of enhancing information sharing mechanism between the government and private sector to address and respond to the constantly evolving cyber threats.

TechAmerica believes that the most important role government can play in encouraging efforts to deter cyber threats is the enactment of legislation that removes legal uncertainty around information sharing and provides appropriate liability protections. Protecting cyberspace is a shared responsibility as cyber threats are not isolated to the private or public sector. Therefore, improving and extending information sharing between private industry and the government is necessary to better protect our nation’s digital infrastructure and respond to the latest, evolving cyber threats.

The framework proposed in the “Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2013” will move industry and government in the right direction on sharing timely and actionable information to protect ourselves from cyber attacks. Specifically, the inclusion of liability protections for the sharing and use of shared information is a critical component that we deem necessary in order to facilitate information sharing. Furthermore, we support the voluntary participation approach that is taken by your legislation.

¹TechAmerica is the leading voice for the U.S. technology industry – the driving force behind productivity growth and jobs creation in the United States and the foundation of the global innovation economy. Representing approximately 1,000 member companies of all sizes from the public and commercial sectors of the economy, it is the industry’s largest advocacy organization. TechAmerica is also the technology industry’s only grassroots-to-global advocacy network, with offices in state capitals around the United States, Washington, D.C., Europe (Brussels) and Asia (Beijing). Learn more about TechAmerica at www.techamerica.org.

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Again, we applaud the effort that has been put forward by you and your staff in support of this long-time, critical goal by the private sector to enhance information sharing efforts with the U.S. government on cyber threats. TechAmerica appreciates the attention and skillful work that you have invested to address this important issue.

Thank you again for considering our views. As representatives of the nation's leading information and communications technology firms, TechAmerica remains strong in our resolve to continue working together with the Administration and Congress to improve the security of our shared cyberspace.

Sincerely,



Kevin Richards
Senior Vice President
Federal Government Affairs