

July 24, 2013

The Honorable Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Thune
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Cybersecurity Act of 2013 (S. 1353)

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Thune:

On behalf of the Technology Association of America (TechAmerica)¹, thank you for your leadership in making cybersecurity a top priority for consideration before the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. TechAmerica shares your goal to enhance our nation's cybersecurity posture and protect against escalating cyber threats. I'm writing to convey TechAmerica's support of the Cybersecurity Act of 2013 (S. 1353) which we believe will help improve our nation's cybersecurity through voluntary standards, best practices, research and development, and public awareness and preparedness.

TechAmerica and our member companies remain committed in our efforts to expand the partnership between the private sector and federal government to address our nation's cybersecurity preparedness. We believe S. 1353 is an important step forward as it will create the solid framework that is necessary to address today's evolving and sophisticated cyber threats by updating the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) authority in this area. NIST's ability to include the development of a voluntary, industry-led set of technology neutral standards, guidelines, and best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes in close and continuous coordination with industry will improve our country's ability to address cyber threats to critical infrastructure. We also believe this legislation strikes the right balance as it is careful not to hinder industry's ability to innovate. S. 1353 will not interfere with the ability to design, develop and deploy technology as it prohibits NIST from requiring industry to adopt specific technology solutions or IT products, or mandate specific guidelines for the design and development of products or services.

We commend the provisions of the S. 1353 which strive to improve cybersecurity workforce, research, education and public awareness, which remain top cybersecurity priorities for our Association. As you know, TechAmerica supported the House passed Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013 (H.R. 756) and the

¹ TechAmerica 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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Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act (H.R. 967) and we are pleased to find that these specific provisions within your legislation align well to these House proposals and are identical to the language which you introduced during the 112th Congress that ultimately passed through the Committee. Additionally, we commend you for also including other elements of the Cybersecurity Act of 2013 which will help encourage cybersecurity professional development and improve public awareness of cybersecurity risks from identity theft to cyber predators and fraudsters.

U.S. companies need the flexibility to innovate in response to ever changing cybersecurity threats and it is crucial that public policies reflect this need. Consistent, predictable, and reliable support for R&D investments is critical if the U.S. is to be secure and a leader in cybersecurity. Investing in research and development (R&D) is also essential to protecting critical systems and enhancing cybersecurity for both the government and the private sector. TechAmerica supports provisions within your bill to create a national cybersecurity R&D plan that will help to develop game-changing technologies that are needed to neutralize attacks on the cyber systems of today and lay the foundation to meet the challenges of securing the cyber systems of tomorrow.

Thank you, again, for your leadership to secure our nation's information and communication infrastructure. TechAmerica looks forward to continue to work closely with you, other members of the Committee along with the full Senate and the House in an effort to improve our nation's cybersecurity posture.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Richards
Senior Vice President
Federal Government Affairs

CC: Members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee