

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
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June 10, 2015

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, strongly supports the second degree amendment #1921 (S. 754, the "Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015" (CISA)) to amendment #1569, offered by Senator Burr to H.R. 1735, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016" (NDAA).

The Chamber urges the Senate to take up CISA and expeditiously pass it, either as an amendment to H.R. 1735 or as a stand-alone bill following action on the NDAA. The Chamber supports the direction that CISA is taking. The Select Committee on Intelligence favorably reported CISA by a vote of 14-1 in March, signifying robust bipartisan support for the bill. CISA goes far in addressing the legal and policy cybersecurity priorities that the Chamber has been advocating for several years.

The Chamber urges Congress to send a bill to the president that gives businesses legal certainty that they have strong protections from liability when voluntarily sharing and receiving threat data indicators and defensive measures (DMs) in real time and monitoring their networks to mitigate cyberattacks. The legislation also needs to offer safeguards related to public disclosure, regulatory, and antitrust matters in order to increase the timely exchange of information among multiple companies and government agencies and departments.

The Chamber believes that legislation needs to protect privacy and civil liberties and establish appropriate roles for civilian and intelligence agencies, which CISA would do. CISA contains provisions reflecting commonsense negotiations among many stakeholders on these issues.

Cyberattacks aimed at U.S. businesses and government entities are being launched from various sources, including sophisticated hackers, organized crime, and state-sponsored groups. These attacks are advancing in scope and complexity. Most policymakers and practitioners appreciate that the intent of legislation is not to spur more information sharing for its own sake. Rather, the goal is to help companies achieve timely and actionable situational awareness to improve the business community's and the nation's detection, mitigation, and response capabilities.

Additional positive side effects of enacting cyber information-sharing legislation include strengthening the security of personal information that is maintained on company systems and increasing costs on nefarious actors. CISA would complement the NIST cybersecurity framework, which many industry associations and companies are embracing and promoting with their business partners. Congressional action on cybersecurity information-sharing legislation cannot come quickly enough.

The Chamber strongly supports the second degree amendment #1921 to amendment #1569 and urges you to vote in favor of this amendment. The Chamber may consider votes on, or in relation to, this amendment in our annual *How They Voted* scorecard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" being the most legible parts.

R. Bruce Josten