

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 18, 2012

Senator Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders Reid and McConnell:

We write to urge you to reach an agreement to ensure cyber security legislation receives a full and open debate in the United States Senate. Bridging the divide on this consequential issue and avoiding a partisan dispute will be critical to safeguarding the credibility of any cyber security proposal passed by this chamber.

Our national and economic security depends upon the resilience of our nation's information and communications networks, and it is essential that we be prepared to defend against cyber activity that could cause catastrophic damage and loss of life. In fact, news reports regularly underscore the magnitude of the threat and the damage that could be done to our nation's networks, including recent reports of a sophisticated cyber attack that led to unauthorized access to personal information of Thrift Savings Plan participants.

As Members of both the Select Committee on Intelligence and the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, we fully recognize the complexity of the substantive policy matters and jurisdictional responsibilities involved in the cyber security debate. Our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have expressed reasonable concerns about both the urgency of advancing legislation to secure our nation from attack and the necessity of avoiding burdensome regulation that could stifle innovation or impede growth.

Given the nature of the threat we face and the significance of the Senate's actions in the coming weeks, it is essential that we not miss an opportunity to consider cyber security legislation in a non-partisan manner and pass a bill that has the momentum to become law. Therefore, we urge you to act swiftly in reaching an agreement on the process for deliberating cyber security legislation that (1) allows the committees of jurisdiction an opportunity to provide their necessary perspective; (2) sets a firm timeline allowing for the legislation to be debated during the July work period; and (3) commits to an open and fair process that permits any Senator to offer pertinent amendments to perfect the legislation, insert additional provisions, or remove provisions from the bill.

Moreover, we are optimistic that when it comes to proposals for securing our critical infrastructure there is tremendous potential for this chamber to forge a viable solution that incentivizes private sector participation and collaboration. If the process for deliberating cyber security legislation is sound, then we are confident such a practical solution for protecting those systems whose disruption could result in a national catastrophe is entirely within reach.

We intend to lend our full support to such a fair and transparent approach, and we believe that only a bipartisan agreement on the process for consideration of cyber security legislation will achieve our shared goal of preparing our nation to defend against this emerging national security threat.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to respond to these challenges without delay.

Sincerely,



Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator