



February 14, 2012

The Honorable Harry M. Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Senators Rockefeller, Lieberman and Collins:

As two of the industry-leading companies providing information technology across the nation and the world, we appreciate your efforts to craft legislation that addresses the important issue of cybersecurity by supporting American industry in its efforts to continue to be the world's leading innovators. This matter deserves the continuing attention of industry, the Congress and the Administration, and we commend you for having constructively engaged stakeholders throughout this process.

As you know, effective cybersecurity must be driven by an IT industry that is free to drive innovation and security and maintain world leadership in the creation of secure systems. Effective cybersecurity depends on our having the ability to drive innovation globally --- it is our core value. We have long advocated a cybersecurity approach based on the importance of real information sharing that can help protect important assets. We thank you for your leadership in recognizing that any cybersecurity legislation must incorporate iron-clad protections to ensure American industry remains the world's leader in the creation and production of information technology, and to make certain that legislation maintains and protects industry's ability and opportunity to drive innovation and security in technologies across global networks.

We believe that you have recognized the importance of these objectives through improvements in the provisions regarding the designation of covered critical infrastructure, the specifics of risk-based performance requirements, and the treatment of the security of the supply chain. We appreciate that you saw the need to make these improvements and we support them. We also appreciate your commitment to ensuring that the IT industry maintains the ability to drive innovation and security into technologies and the network. Further, we appreciate the recognition that more needs to be done in advancing innovation through increased research and development, and in raising awareness and education, and importantly on increasing global law enforcement.

By incorporating these modifications, your legislation proposes a number of tools that will enhance the nation's cybersecurity, without interfering with the innovation and development processes of the American IT industry. Ultimately, the ability of the tech industry to continue to innovate will provide the best defense against cyber attacks and data breaches.

We thank you for your outreach, willingness to engage in an exhaustive process around this issue set, and to consider and respond to the views of America's technology sector. We look forward to working with you and others in the Congress to continue the public-private collaboration and to make sure that what results continues to meet our common goals.

Sincerely,



Blair Christie
Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer
Worldwide Government Affairs
Cisco Systems, Inc.



Kenneth Glueck
Senior Vice President
Office of the CEO
Oracle Corporation