

**Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson**  
**Business Meeting**  
**July 29, 2015**

*As prepared for the record:*

Good morning.

The Committee will consider many important bills today that meet our stated goal of enhancing the national and economic safety of all Americans, from reducing improper payments to securing our borders to protecting Americans from cyber and other critical infrastructure threats.

There are a couple pieces of legislation that I want to take a minute to highlight. First, I am proud to cosponsor the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (FCEA) with Ranking Member Carper, which I expect we will report out of Committee today with unanimous support. The bill requires agencies to adopt best practices in cybersecurity and authorizes and accelerates deployment of a federal intrusion detection and prevention system. This Committee's oversight of Federal agencies' cybersecurity has revealed that Federal agencies are failing to secure their most sensitive data. The measures required by FCEA would have prevented or substantially slowed recent breaches at the Office of Personnel Management and [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov), and requiring agencies put them in place will make it far more difficult for our adversaries to steal our private data and to penetrate government networks in the future.

Additionally, the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act (CIPA) is a small but necessary step toward addressing the threats that solar weather and electromagnetic pulse pose to our electric grid. At a hearing our Committee held last week, witnesses including Dr. Richard Garwin – someone regarded as a “national resource” by the Department of Energy Secretary – testified that our grid remains unprotected, even though the risks and opportunities for mitigation were clearly identified by the EMP Commission a decade ago. CIPA requires the Department of Homeland Security to perform research and development related to these threats, and create a strategy for protecting our critical infrastructure.

Finally, I believe the Department of Homeland Security Border Security Metrics Act of 2015 is a crucial first step in measuring security at our borders. Without regular and easily accessible data, we cannot properly define the problem and take steps to address it.

I do want to thank the Ranking Member, Members of the Committee, and all their staff for their hard work. While we have already made great progress on some of these bills, a couple may still need additional work and discussion. It is not always easy to find areas of agreement to our nation's most pressing problems, but the Members and their staff continue to work diligently and collaboratively to craft legislation that does just that.