

**U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
“Evolving the U.S. Cybersecurity Strategy and Posture: Reviewing the
Cyberspace Solarium Commission Report”**

OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER GARY C. PETERS

May 13, 2020

AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Thank you to our witnesses for joining us today and for your hard work on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission. I especially would like to thank our colleague Senator King for his leadership on cybersecurity policy and for appearing before us today and subjecting himself to our questioning.

Cyber-attacks are one of the greatest threats to our national security and, as the Commission found in your report, the United States is not thoroughly prepared to defend ourselves in cyberspace.

The findings and recommendations included in your report could not have come at a more important time.

Adversaries like China, Russia, and Iran have repeatedly attempted to hack into our critical infrastructure, interfere in our democratic processes, and engage in largescale intellectual property theft.

Most recently, the Chinese government launched a cyber-attack against our hospitals and health care research facilities in an effort to steal information on a Coronavirus vaccine – an attack that threatened the health and safety of Americans.

Every one of these attempted attacks are targeted to undermine our national and economic security.

Without sufficient cybersecurity tools, resources, and personnel, these attacks could have a devastating impact on our daily lives.

Your report makes critical recommendations that Congress must consider as we work to ensure our country is better prepared to deter, prevent, and recover from malicious cyber-attacks.

Your recommendations are wide-ranging, but boil down to three main goals:

We must work with our allies to promote responsible behavior in cyberspace; We must deny benefits to adversaries who exploit our vulnerabilities; And we must impose greater costs on those who engage in malicious cyber-attacks.

I have been proud to work on a bipartisan basis with many of my colleagues on this committee to advance legislation that will help meet some of these goals. I look forward to discussing these

recommendations today and finding additional ways we can continue to strengthen our cybersecurity protections.

Thank you again for joining us today, and I look forward to your testimony.