

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2015

Chairman Richard Burr
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
211 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Vice Chairman Dianne Feinstein
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
211 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Devin Nunes
House Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence
HVC-304, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Adam Schiff
House Permanent Select Committee on
Intelligence
HVC-304, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Michael McCaul
Homeland Security Committee
176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Bennie Thompson
Homeland Security Committee
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Burr, Vice Chairman Feinstein, Chairman Nunes, Ranking Member Schiff,
Chairman McCaul, and Ranking Member Thompson,

We write in opposition to the inclusion of Section 407 as an amendment to S. 754, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015. Section 407 was included without public hearings or debate. If adopted, Section 407 would put the Department of Homeland Security in a position of developing a cybersecurity “strategy” for several private sector firms. As is too often the case, what begins as a “strategy” could easily turn into burdensome regulation when federal agencies get involved. This is backdoor regulation at its worst and is counterproductive to the underlying goals of the bill.

As the House and Senate proceed to reconcile the differences between the respective information sharing bills which have passed both Chambers, it is critical that the final Conference Report maintain its central guiding principle: the information sharing framework built by this legislation is voluntary and free of burdensome government mandates and regulation. Section 407 would undermine that principle.

America’s enemies continue to attack our cyber networks on a daily basis. We cannot afford to lose the progress made in improving and strengthening private sector cybersecurity and its information sharing framework. Therefore, we urge you to reject the inclusion of Section 407 in the final Conference Report of S. 754.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith
Fred Upton

Jeb Hensarling
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Kevin Cramer
Marsha Blackburn
Roger Williams
Doug Collins
Ken Buck
Doug LaMalfa
Billy Long
Dennis Ross
Luke Messer
John Shimkus
Chris Collins
David W. Jolly
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Gus M. Bilirakis
Steve King
Scott Perry
John Kline
Mo Brooks
Gregg Harper
Brett Guthrie
Jim Bridenstine
Scott Rigell
Tim Walberg
Barbara Comstock
Ryan Zinke
Rodney Davis
Scott Tipton
Louie Gohmert
Bill Johnson
F. James Sensenbrenner Jr.
Mike Bishop
Tom McClintock
Rick Allen
Charles Boustany
Lou Barletta
Tom Emmer

Steven Palazzo
Leonard Lance
Daniel M. Donovan Jr.
Pete Olson
Brad Ashford
Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Robert E. Latta
Barry Loudermilk
Paul Gosar
John Fleming
Tom Graves
Bill Huizenga
Mike Rogers
Glenn Grothman
Greg Walden
Martha McSally
Dan Benishek, M.D.
Matt Salmon
Ed Whitfield
David Schweikert
Mimi Walters
Carlos Curbelo
Mike Bost
Blake Farenthold
Mick Mulvaney
Robert B. Aderholt
Terri Sewell
David B. McKinley
Renee Ellmers
Bruce Westerman
Keith Rothfus
Bill Flores
Brian Babin, D.D.S
Bradley Byrne
Bob Gibbs