

June 10, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of our members and their customers and clients, we write today in strong support of Senator Burr's amendment #1921, currently pending to H.R. 1735, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016. This amendment contains the text of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (S. 754), a bipartisan bill recently approved on a near-unanimous basis by the Select Committee on Intelligence. We urge you and your colleagues to adopt this amendment.

The threat of cyber-attacks is a real and omnipresent danger to our sector and to other critical infrastructure providers that we, and the nation as a whole, rely upon. Our members and the broader financial services industry are dedicated to improving our capacity to protect customers and their sensitive information but as it stands today, our laws do not do enough to foster information sharing and establish clear lines of communication with the various government agencies responsible for cybersecurity. If adopted, this amendment will strengthen the nation's ability to defend against cyber-attacks and better protect all Americans by encouraging the business community and the government to quickly and effectively share critical information about these threats while ensuring privacy. More effective information sharing provides some of the strongest protections of privacy, as it is sensitive information from our member firms' customers that we are asking Congress to protect from those who attempt to steal or destroy that information.

Each of our organizations and our respective member firms has made cybersecurity a top priority and we are committed to continuing to work with you and your colleagues in the Senate so that effective cyber threat information sharing legislation can be enacted into law.

Sincerely,

American Bankers Association  
American Insurance Association  
Financial Services Roundtable  
Investment Company Institute  
The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies  
Property Casualty Insurers Association of America  
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate