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Washington, DC 20002

Tel: +1.202.346.3240  
Fax: +1.202.346.3241

April 18, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), I am writing in support of your efforts to improve the nation's cybersecurity.

TIA is a leading trade association for the information and communications technology (ICT) industry, with over 500 member companies that manufacture or supply the products and services used in global communications. The ICT industry is very aware of the cyber threats being faced by U.S. institutions, and it continues to play an important role in detecting, preventing, mitigating, and responding to those rapidly changing threats.

Congress now has an opportunity to take important actions to improve the nation's cybersecurity. In doing so, it must take care to avoid stifling opportunities for innovation, and to avoid constraining the ability of industry to rapidly respond to new threats. Moreover, Congress should recognize that global approaches to cybersecurity policy are needed, and it should therefore avoid imposing policies that would have harmful reciprocal market effects on the U.S. ICT industry, such as difficult-to-implement supply chain requirements.

As the House of Representatives continues its work on cybersecurity legislation, we urge you to focus on the following goals:

- **Improving information sharing.** Legislation should ensure that the private sector has access to information necessary to defend against cyber attacks, protect the private sector from liability for its efforts to improve cybersecurity, and support existing information-sharing and analysis organizations. TIA supports the Cyber Intelligence Sharing Protection Act (H.R. 3523), and appreciates the efforts in recent days by lawmakers and staff to ensure that this legislation appropriately addresses privacy and civil liberties concerns.
- **Supporting cybersecurity research and development.** Congress should increase federal cybersecurity R&D activities to complement the significant efforts already being made by the ICT industry in this area. TIA supports the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act (H.R. 2096), and also supports the Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act (H.R. 3834). H.R. 3834 would promote interdisciplinary R&D in several application areas including cybersecurity.



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- **FISMA reform.** TIA supports efforts to improve and harmonize cybersecurity programs across government agencies. In doing so, Congress should focus on the security practices of agencies and their personnel – people and processes – while again avoiding ICT security standard requirements that could prove disruptive to the ICT supply chain.
- **Improving public awareness through education.** It is well-documented that a large majority of successful cyber attacks can be prevented through better cyber “hygiene.” TIA strongly supports federal efforts to increase awareness of cybersecurity issues among both institutional users and the general public.

Thank you again for your efforts on this important issue, and we look forward to working with you in the coming days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant E. Seiffert". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Grant E. Seiffert  
President