

April 16, 2013

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives,

The undersigned representatives of the financial services industry are writing in support of H.R. 756, the “Cybersecurity Enhancement Act”; H.R. 967, the “Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act”; and H.R. 1163, the “Federal Information Security Amendments Act.”

H.R. 756, the “Cybersecurity Enhancement Act” authorizes necessary funding and focus to improve cybersecurity through increased research and development, enhancement of a scholarship for service program and promotion of cybersecurity awareness and education. Public and private research and development are essential for the continued improvement of our nation’s cybersecurity defenses. As cyber threats increase and evolve, it is essential that standards development and education and workforce training be aligned to meet these threats.

H.R. 967, the “Advancing America’s Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act” will refocus the National High-Performance Computing Program to a larger mission by renaming the Program and increasing research and development within the Program. In addition, the legislation directs the Program to establish a strategic plan and put in place necessary benchmarks to accomplish its priorities. Research and development on government systems is necessary to ensure the system continues to be fully operational.

H.R. 1163, the “Federal Information Security Amendments Act” will provide necessary updates to the Federal Information Security Management Act, such as requiring federal agencies to comply with National Institute of Standards and Technology computer standards and perform risk-based analysis of cyber threats to develop appropriate controls. Given the severity of the cyber threat and the critical role of government’s information technology, it is critical that federal agencies take proactive steps to secure their infrastructure.

Our nation’s cybersecurity requires the active participation of the government, business and every consumer. We believe these bills encourage the participation of all, while providing the tools to defend against cyber threats by funding research and development activities. The financial services industry is committed to this effort and will remain a willing partner with the Congress and the Administration to secure our nation’s cyber infrastructure.

American Bankers Association
Consumer Bankers Association
Credit Union National Association (CUNA)
Electronic Funds Transfer Association
Financial Services Roundtable
Independent Community Bankers of America
NACHA-The Electronic Payments Association
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA)