



April 14, 2015

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bennie Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Thompson:

Enactment of information-sharing legislation is urgently needed to further enhance communication among the federal government, the North American electric power sector, and other critical infrastructure sectors, which in turn will improve our ability to prevent, detect and mitigate cyber threats. We applaud your bipartisan efforts to craft and move forward with legislation, the National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act (NCPAA), to help achieve the goal of enhancing multi-directional sharing of cybersecurity threat information.

In addition to mandatory and enforceable cybersecurity standards, a key part of the North American electric sector's cyber threat mitigation strategy involves strong industry-government partnerships. By coordinating with relevant federal agencies and each other to enhance security measures, critical infrastructure owners, users and operators in the electric sector can better address evolving threats. Legislation that helps promote greater sharing of actionable cyber threat information in all directions among government and the private sector in a timely, confidential manner will enhance these partnership efforts and further improve security. We encourage your continued pursuit of legislation that recognizes, maintains, and builds upon—and does not duplicate or conflict with—existing public-private information-sharing efforts.

We appreciate the recognition in NCPAA of the importance of existing sharing relationships while seeking to provide incentives, like liability protections for sharing of cybersecurity threat information, to encourage even more multi-directional information sharing. It is also important to avoid disincentives, like the unauthorized release of sensitive information or the use of identified vulnerabilities in regulatory or legal proceedings, in order to increase private-sector participation in these efforts.

We appreciate this positive step toward enactment of information-sharing and liability protection legislation that will help us do an even better job of protecting the nation's critical electric infrastructure while preserving our existing efforts. We look forward to working with you and other Committees as your bill moves through the legislative process.

American Public Power Association

Edison Electric Institute

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association