



January 14, 2014

The Honorable Michael McCaul, Chairman  
The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Patrick Meehan, Subcommittee Chairman  
The Honorable Yvette Clark, Subcommittee Ranking Member  
House Homeland Security Committee  
H2-176 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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**Re: H.R. 3696, the “National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2013” (NCCIP Act)**

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), its over half a million members, countless additional supporters and activists, and 53 affiliates nationwide, we write in regards to H.R. 3696, the National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2013 (NCCIP Act). We have reviewed this legislation and have found that information sharing provisions in this bill do not undermine current privacy laws.

As we testified before the Committee last year, it is crucial that civilian agencies like the Department of Homeland Security lead domestic cybersecurity efforts and the NCCIP Act makes strides towards that end. The bill directs DHS to coordinate cybersecurity efforts among non-intelligence government agencies and critical infrastructure entities. The NCCIP Act smartly does that by focusing on coordination and information sharing within current law and leveraging existing structures that have proven successful in the past. Unlike H.R. 624, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), your bill does not create broad exceptions to the privacy laws for cybersecurity. Instead, it strengthens private-public partnerships by supporting existing Information Sharing and Analysis Centers and Sector Coordinating Councils and reinforces voluntary sharing under current statutes that already provide for many cybersecurity scenarios.

We commend the Committee for advancing cyber legislation that is both pro-security and pro-privacy and we look forward to working with you further on this matter. Please contact Michelle Richardson, Legislative Counsel, at 202-715-0825 or [mrichardson@aclu.org](mailto:mrichardson@aclu.org) for more information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Laura W. Murphy in black ink.

Laura W. Murphy, Director

Handwritten signature of Michelle Richardson in black ink.

Michelle Richardson, Legislative Counsel