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January 9, 2014

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul:

On behalf of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), a non-partisan, non-profit association with more than 1,600 corporate members and nearly 92,000 individual members, we support the passage of the National Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2013, H.R. 3696. As the nation's largest association of defense industrial base companies, we take a deep interest in legislation and policy that addresses cybersecurity. Our members understand the complexity of cybersecurity and its status as a national security issue requiring a comprehensive approach, which your legislation would enact.

Information sharing between the federal government and the private sector is a key tool for securing cyber networks, which currently lack common situational awareness. H.R. 3696, particularly sections 227 and 228, makes important steps toward addressing that information sharing deficit, and does so using existing resources.

Liability protection encourages commitment to cybersecurity efforts by private entities. Without such protection, companies may move more slowly to protect privately-held critical infrastructure from cyber threats and will be reluctant to participate fully if they are subject to litigation risk even if they are working in good faith. The provision to expand liability protections under the SAFETY Act by adding cybersecurity technologies is a step in the right direction. Such incentives foster the adoption of cybersecurity procedures.

Your bipartisan approach to drafting this bill is commendable and sorely needed. NDIA enthusiastically supports H.R. 3696 and looks forward to its enactment.

Sincerely and respectfully,



Lawrence P. Farrell Jr.
Lt. General, USAF (Ret.)
President and CEO