

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson*****Wassenaar: Cybersecurity & Export Control***

January 12, 2016 (Washington) – Today, Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) delivered the following prepared remarks for the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies subcommittee joint hearing entitled “Wassenaar: Cybersecurity & Export Control”:

“The concept of cyber and information security is fundamental to our economy across all sectors, not only for business computers and networks, but also because this issue crosses the lanes of private personal information, and politics and governance considerations.

Cyber and information security are also issues that involve the ingenuity and initiative that make American entrepreneurs and computer software scientists leaders in world markets.

The Wassenaar Arrangement for the export control of ‘dual use’ cybersecurity products is not only technically complex, but also involves moral and ethical considerations that must be taken into account.

The United States economy is the largest in the world, and the most creative, innovative and productive. The strength of our engineers, scientists and industrial leaders and across all sectors of American industry is unmatched.

While the American worker is recognized as the most productive worker in the world, the electronic world dominates our business information security processes, and we depend most heavily on the effective functioning of machine and computer system controls to achieve our high levels of productivity.

We cannot maintain these high levels of productivity without comprehensive and massive security efforts to protect, not only machines and computers, but the electronic networks that we all depend on in our daily lives, ones that sustain the highest standard of living in the world for American families.

The United States leads the world in the production of cybersecurity products and systems that not only produce the software applications that keep our economy running, but also the information security products that protect our vital personal data, business information and communication networks.

The treaties, agreements and arrangements we have with our international trading partners play a fundamental role in allowing our U.S.-made products to be exported easily and without interference, and these are often intricate and detailed provisions.”

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