

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2021

The Hon. Jake Sullivan
National Security Advisor
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

We write to you to express our concern regarding the recent ransomware attack against Colonial Pipeline Company. This attack, which affects the fuel supply of the entire East Coast, highlights a number of critical concerns shared independently and jointly by our Committees. While many details of this attack are still being determined, the devastating effects have been abundantly clear: millions of Americans, including our constituents, could face rising fuel costs, potential shortages, and significant economic and logistical burdens as a result of the hack.

We are deeply concerned about the security of our nation's critical infrastructure and the industrial control systems (ICS) that underpin many national critical functions. As we have repeatedly stressed, cybersecurity is no longer just an 'IT issue' but instead an economic and national security challenge that can have real-world impacts to our security. It is imperative that the federal response is rapid, clear, and consistent.

Congress has entrusted the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with playing a key role securing U.S. critical infrastructure against cyber-enabled disruptions.¹ Within DHS, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is responsible for coordinating the overall federal effort to secure critical infrastructure across all 16 sectors alongside designated Sector Risk Management Agencies.² For the Pipelines subsector, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) serves as the Sector Risk Management Agency.³

Our Committees understand that the White House has established an interagency task force in response to the attack on Colonial Pipeline. We request the task force provide a formal briefing to members of our Committees on the federal response to the cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline as soon as possible. In addition to a more detailed understanding of the cyber forensics of the incident response and more formal adversary attribution, we want to make sure there is interagency clarity in roles and responsibilities between the National Security Council, CISA, Sector Risk Management Agencies, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Now is a time to focus on critical infrastructure resilience, not relitigate federal turf battles.

¹ *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, Title I (Pub. L. 107-296).

² *Homeland Security Act of 2002*, Title XXII (Pub. L. 107-296).

³ *Transportation Security Act of 2001* (Pub. L. 107-71); see also *PIPES Act of 2006* (Pub. L. 109-468).

We appreciate your prompt attention to this request. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact our staffs at (202) 226-2616 for the Committee on Homeland Security or (202) 225-4472 for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



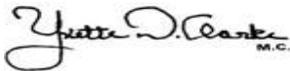
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Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



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Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



SAM GRAVES
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
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