



November 20, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The undersigned organizations urge the Senate to pass S. 2588, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2014 (CISA), before the 113th Congress adjourns. 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 defend against cyber attacks.

Although the electric power sector already has in place mandatory and enforceable reliability and cybersecurity standards, the need for government and industry to better share actionable security information in a timely, confidential manner remains. The more thorough our understanding of the threats our sector faces, the more quickly and effectively we can prevent or mitigate cyber attacks. CISA, a bipartisan bill passed by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence by a broad margin, provides the essential mechanisms and protections for improved information exchange to occur.

The electric power sector takes very seriously its responsibility to maintain the reliability, safety, and security of the electric grid. Beyond the aforementioned standards, the industry also employs a “defense-in-depth” mitigation strategy against cyber and other threats that combines preparation, prevention, resiliency, and response and recovery efforts. The electric power sector

is also working with the federal government through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council and the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center to improve the flow of and access to information. Every day the industry faces threats that, if not immediately addressed and remedied, could have operational consequences. We must and do respond swiftly and thoroughly to these threats to ensure the protection of the electric grid and our ability to maintain reliable electric service to customers.

CISA is broadly supported by the business and critical infrastructure owner-operator community. This letter seeks to supplement other broad-based expressions of support by emphasizing the electric sector's united support for CISA. We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation in the remaining days of the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

American Public Power Association

Canadian Electricity Association

Edison Electric Institute

Electric Power Supply Association

GridWise Alliance

Large Public Power Council

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Nuclear Energy Institute

Transmission Access Policy Study Group

Utilities Telecom Council