



July 29, 2013

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6125

The Honorable John Thune  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6125

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Thune:

We write today in support of S. 1353, the Cybersecurity Act of 2013, and to thank you for the bipartisan approach you and your staffs have taken in drafting a bill to enhance the cybersecurity of our nation's critical infrastructure.

The bill you introduced acknowledges the cooperative role both industry and government must play to secure cyber assets, and respects the existing regulatory structures that currently govern the many critical infrastructure sectors. We believe these two characteristics are vital to any successful cybersecurity framework.

As a coalition representing every segment of the electric utility and nuclear power industries, we are proud that our sectors already have in place mandatory and enforceable cybersecurity standards. Developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for review and approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and applicable Canadian governmental authorities, these standards ensure that owners, users, and operators of the North American electric grid meet a baseline level of security.

While standards are an important component to cyber preparedness, the dynamic nature of cyber threats requires more than rigid compliance checklists. For this reason, we appreciate that your bill envisions an ongoing collaborative relationship with industry to develop voluntary best practices; it is important to complement the work already being done, without conflicting with or duplicating existing regulatory structures. Moreover, given that the electric grid is North American in scope, we also appreciate recognition in the bill of the importance and value of consulting with the governments of other nations and international organizations.

In addition to the continuing development of standards and best practices, our industry also has seen the value of close coordination among industry and government partners. While not directly addressed by your legislation, we do believe that a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity requires partnerships that leverage the capabilities of all who are responsible for securing critical infrastructure. We enjoy strong working relationships at the senior executive level with our Sector Specific Agencies, which have resulted in improved sharing of threat information, an avenue for deploying cutting-edge tools and technologies, and an understanding of roles and responsibilities in response to cyber incidents. As Congress continues to look at ways to improve cybersecurity for critical infrastructure, we believe our experience is an instructive example of the value of close government-industry collaboration.

We share your goal of protecting the nation's critical infrastructure from cyber threats and appreciate your efforts to address this important national security issue. We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure S. 1353 remains focused on these principles as it moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

American Public Power Association  
California Independent System Operator Corporation  
Canadian Electricity Association  
Edison Electric Institute  
Electric Power Supply Association  
GridWise Alliance  
Large Public Power Council

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
PJM Interconnection, LLC  
Transmission Access Policy Study Group  
Utilities Telecom Council