



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2013

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

The Honorable Patrick Meehan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,
Infrastructure Protection, and Security
Technologies
204 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul and Subcommittee Chairman Meehan:

We write regarding H.R. 624, the “Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act.”

As you are aware, H.R. 624 contains numerous provisions within the Rule X, clause 1(j) jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security. Specifically, H.R. 624 contains provisions directing the Department of Homeland Security’s National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center to integrate and disseminate homeland security information and addressing the government-wide use of cyber threat information for cybersecurity or the protection of national security. Despite these provisions clearly falling within the Committee’s legislative jurisdiction, the Speaker chose not to refer the measure to the Committee upon introduction.

On Friday, March, 1, 2013, the Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Representative Mike Rogers of Michigan, was quoted as saying that negotiations with the White House on the “Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act” are underway and that the parties are “very close” to agreeing on the role that the Department of Homeland Security would play to better defend against cyber attacks.¹

¹ “White House, lawmakers resume cybersecurity bill talks,” Chicago Tribune at http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-03-01/business/sns-rt-us-usa-cybersecurity-billbre9200w9-20130301_1_cybersecurity-bill-cyber-attacks-rogers

Given that the provisions under discussion with the White House are within the Committee's jurisdiction, it is troubling to learn that the leadership of another Committee believes it has reached agreement on the parameters of the Department's cybersecurity role.

Like you, we have strong views about the criticality of cybersecurity to the welfare of our nation, the role of the Department of Homeland Security in that effort, and our Committee's obligation to play a central role in shaping cybersecurity policy. That is why we firmly believe that the Committee should defend, pursue, and exercise jurisdiction in this area. In light of the Speaker's decision not to refer H.R. 624 to the Committee upon introduction, we urge you to insist upon a sequential referral of the measure and afford Members of the Committee the opportunity to consider this legislation in an open markup session.

By taking these actions early in the 113th Congress, you will demonstrate your commitment to vigorously defending this Committee's legislative jurisdiction and protect this Committee's position as a central player in the cybersecurity arena. Additionally, it will afford the Committee, which has conducted extensive oversight and developed expertise in matters of cybersecurity, an opportunity to debate and inform the bill.

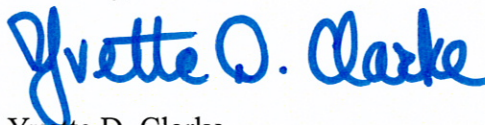
Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this request. Should you or your staff have any questions on this matter, please contact Ms. Rosaline Cohen, Chief Counsel for Legislation of the Committee on Homeland Security, at x6-2616.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity,
Infrastructure Protection, and
Security Technologies