

**Testimony of Congressman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)**

**Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland Security**

**Rules Committee consideration of H.R. 3523, the “Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act”**

**April 25, 2012**

I am here today to testify in support of three common-sense amendments that I filed yesterday. Two of my amendments address serious flaws in H.R. 3523. The third addresses a serious gap on the legislative agenda for “Cybersecurity Week.”

I am offering “Thompson Number 23” in an effort to provide the House with the opportunity to vote on *critical infrastructure cybersecurity*-- an area identified by President Obama and current and former national security officials as needing urgent attention. Further, this amendment is in line with the recommendations of the “Speaker’s cybersecurity task force for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress”.

Specifically, it would direct DHS to conduct risk assessments of critical infrastructure, develop a list of “best practices” to mitigate those risks, and work with existing regulators to incorporate these “best practices” into existing regulatory frameworks, *as appropriate*.

I am joined by Representatives Jim Langevin, Loretta Sanchez, and Alcee Hastings on this amendment.

In order to minimize the impact on privacy and civil liberties, “Thompson Number 22” would direct the development of policies and procedures to safeguard the personally-identifiable information shared with the Federal government.

This amendment, co-sponsored by my Committee colleague, Loretta Sanchez, as well as my colleagues from across the aisle, Ron Paul and Justin Amash, seeks to ensure that consumers will be protected under the information sharing framework created under this bill.

My last amendment, “Thompson Number 21,” would require that information shared by the private sector with the Federal government is initially received through the Department of Homeland Security or another civilian agency like the Justice Department.

I would note that this amendment would allow cyber threat information collected by the Intelligence Community to be shared with the private sector. At the same time, it would maintain the traditional divide between foreign intelligence operations and domestic security.

It is cosponsored by Committee colleagues, Representatives Loretta Sanchez and Yvette Clarke as well as Representative Paul and two members of this panel—Representatives Hastings and Polis.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Slaughter for your consideration. All three of my amendments merit consideration on the House Floor, and I would ask that they be made in order.