



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2014

Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson,

We are writing to express our concern for the vulnerability of our nation's networks and infrastructure to cyber attacks and to encourage you to host within the United States a multilateral cybersecurity exercise focused on enhancing international cooperation in combating cyber attacks. Our nation is increasingly at risk and we must not only seek creative solutions, but also strengthen multilateral partnerships that could aid our nation against a future attack.

A year and a half ago, then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta warned of the dangers of a cyber-Pearl Harbor and cautioned that U.S. networks were increasingly vulnerable to foreign hackers that could disrupt our financial, transportation, and energy systems. Similarly, just last year, General Keith Alexander warned that U.S. computer networks are under constant attack and stated, "Mark my words, it's going to get worse. The disruptive and destructive attacks on our country will get worse..." Given last year's devastating cyber attack on South Korea and this past summer's breach at the Department of Energy it is clear to us that cybersecurity is both a concern to our nation and to our allies around the globe. Conducting a multilateral cybersecurity exercise would allow the U.S. Government to work with and learn from other countries that have developed sophisticated and innovative cybersecurity competencies and share our common goal to strengthen one's defenses from cyber attacks.

While we applaud you for the important work that you and the Department are doing to protect our nation from crippling cyber attacks, our adversaries are constantly developing new technologies aimed at disrupting our way of life. Therefore, it is important that our nation remain ahead of the curve, and a multilateral cybersecurity exercise would provide the U.S. Government with such an opportunity. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress

RICHARD HANNA
Member of Congress