

Senator Susan Collins  
SR-172 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

October 14, 2004

Dear Senator Collins,

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 10. Within H.R. 10 is a very important provision to create a position of Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This provision was carefully crafted among the Committees of jurisdiction in the House, and we urge its adoption by the House and Senate Conferees in their final Conference Report. There have been recent press reports stating that DHS may support elevating the cyber security position but only to the Deputy Assistant Secretary level. To be clear, we do not believe that level is sufficient.

Critical information infrastructure underpins our economy and national security. We recognize the importance of ensuring the physical security of critical infrastructure, but believe the dynamic nature and complexity of information systems require dedicated, high-level attention at the Department of Homeland Security. However, over the past two years the private sector has witnessed the lead for coordinating cyber security within the Federal government fall from a Special Advisor to the President for Cyberspace Security at the White House to a division director level at DHS. The President's National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace -- a document that we believe remains salient and timely -- requires greater attention.

We believe that the creation of an Assistant Secretary position is the appropriate solution. It is vitally important that there be one full-time official responsible for cyber security with the authority to implement the National Strategy. The Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security would work alongside the Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection under the leadership of the Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. This structure would provide the requisite, individual attention for both physical and cyber, while ensuring programs are integrated where appropriate at the Under Secretary level.

Creating an Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security is not unrelated to responding to the events of September 11. Information networks proved critical in coordinating the immediate response to the events of 9-11 and will prove critical in responding to any future terrorist attack. Unfortunately, we will likely see information networks supporting government systems and critical infrastructure subject to future terrorist attack. We must do everything possible in advance to deter such attacks and mitigate their impact.

We urge the Conferees, House and Senate leadership to support the creation of an Assistant Secretary

for Cyber Security in the 9/11 Conference Report of 2004.

Sincerely,



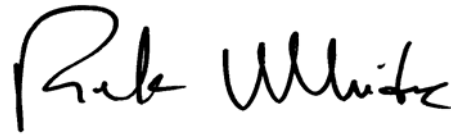
Paul Kurtz  
Executive Director  
Cyber Security Industry Alliance



Robert Holleyman  
President and CEO  
Business Software Alliance



Harris Miller  
President  
Information Technology Association  
of America



Rick White  
President and CEO  
Technology Network (TechNet)



Steve Bartlett  
President and CEO  
Financial Services Roundtable