

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2012

General Martin E. Dempsey  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20318

Dear General Dempsey:

For over three years my colleagues and I have been working together on a bipartisan basis, and with interested stakeholders in the private sector and national security experts in and out of government, in an open and transparent effort to develop cybersecurity legislation. After multiple hearings, hundreds of stakeholder meetings, thousands of pages of written comments and edits, and scores of draft versions of the bill, we have completed the legislation, S.3414, and the Senate will consider it this week.

Earlier today we received a letter from General Keith Alexander, the Director of the National Security Agency and the Commanding General of the Department of Defense Cyber Command, offering his professional military advice on the Senate's consideration of cybersecurity legislation:

"I am writing to express my strong support for passage of a comprehensive bipartisan cyber security bill by the Senate this week. The cyber threat facing the Nation is real and demands immediate action. The time to act is now; we simply cannot afford further delay. Moreover, to be most effective in protecting against this threat to our national security, cyber security legislation should address both information sharing and core critical infrastructure hardening."

General Alexander is our nation's leading military and intelligence officer on cybersecurity issues, so Senators give his advice on these matters particular weight. We attach the full letter for your reference. You are our nation's top military officer, and we would like your best professional military advice regarding the urgency of the cyber threat to our country's well-being, and the legislative actions the Senate should take to address that threat. Please respond as promptly as possible.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation