



April 22, 2015

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Devin Nunes
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul and Chairman Nunes:

Our organizations, on behalf of the nation's drinking water and wastewater utilities, appreciate your efforts to enhance cybersecurity in the country's critical infrastructure.

We are supportive of the non-regulatory approach for critical infrastructure cybersecurity protection reflected in H.R. 1731, the "National Cybersecurity Protection Advancement Act" (NCPAA), and H.R. 1560, the "Protecting Cyber Networks Act" (PCNA). These bills will: (1) set parameters for how to share sensitive cyber threat information; (2) authorize network operators to monitor networks for cyber threats and take appropriate defensive measures when threats are identified; and (3) offer protections to encourage private sector participation in these efforts.

We are especially appreciative of language added to the respective manager's amendments of H.R. 1731 and H.R. 1560 to clarify that local government agencies performing public utility services – such as municipal water and wastewater systems – will enjoy the same cybersecurity incentives and protections as their private-sector counterparts.

As you know, a successful cyber attack against a water system could disrupt local water service while undermining the public's confidence in one of the nation's most critical infrastructure services. That is why we appreciate your efforts to strengthen cyber defenses, and look forward to participating in the information sharing programs authorized by this legislation.

Sincerely,

American Water Works Association
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Association of Water Companies
National Rural Water Association
Water Environment Federation

cc: The Honorable Bennie Thompson
The Honorable Adam Schiff