



2001 Gateway Place, Suite 101E
(408)501-7864 Fax (408)501-7861

www.svlg.org

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Established in 1978 by

DAVID PACKARD

July 30, 2012

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman, Subcommittee on Federal Financial
Management, Government Information,
Federal Services and International Security
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: S. 3414 The Cybersecurity Act of 2012

Dear Senators Lieberman, Collins, Rockefeller, Feinstein and Carper:

Thank you for your leadership moving S. 3414, The Cybersecurity Act of 2012, bi-partisan legislation to the Senate floor this week. We all share the common goal – to protect our digital infrastructure from cyber attacks and support legislation that moves this country forward to preserve and promote innovation that can contribute to a more resilient global digital infrastructure. Cybersecurity can be best realized through an effective public and private partnership. The government and industry are fundamentally aligned on this issue and it appears that S.3414 is heading in the right direction.

By way of background, the Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 375 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers. Leadership Group members collectively provide nearly 250,000 local jobs, or one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley – with more than \$1 trillion in economic contribution toward the state and national economy. Leadership Group members operate facility locations throughout the U.S.

The United States' information technology (IT) industry is the strongest in the world, driving economic growth, creating new businesses, generating jobs, and improving defense and intelligence activities. Cybersecurity innovation must outpace malicious cyber threat advancement. That is why our industry is at the forefront of efforts to improve cybersecurity, including investing billions of dollars in cybersecurity research and development (R&D) and collaboration with U.S. government agencies.

We urge the Senate to pass legislation that includes substantial elements of the recently passed House legislation to enhance national cybersecurity while protecting privacy; improve information sharing; reform Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA); and increase cybersecurity R&D.

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Chairman, Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Legislation should promote public-private partnerships, addressing the need for security clearances and liability indemnification in order to encourage experts in the private sector to share information both with the government and among themselves in multi-company settings.

We support collaborative efforts such as the sectoral Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs), National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC)'s Cyber Collaboration Task Force and the F.B.I.'s National Cyber Forensics Training Alliance.

S. 3414 addresses these elements and would immediately improve public and private cybersecurity infrastructure without adding unnecessary expense or bureaucracy. We look toward your leadership to ensure that these measures are a part of the Senate legislation where all sides have focused on the common good of a national policy that reflects on the innovation of U.S. technology. Legislative progress on cybersecurity is an important step towards protection of personal information. We are also encouraged to learn that the latest amendments in S. 3414 create a voluntary program for companies to meet critical cyber standards. As the Senate begins debate on this important policy matter, we support enhanced criminal penalties for cybercrime and that adopt a single, federal standard for data breach notification and security. America's greatest strength is our entrepreneurial spirit. Silicon Valley companies lead the world in advancing the industry -- cybersecurity must be a bipartisan effort. Thank you for your leadership in moving us in a positive direction and for taking a bold step to move this issue forward on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carl Guardino".

Carl Guardino
President & CEO