

**Opening Statement of Chairman Devin Nunes,
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence**

**Hearing on the Growing Cyber Threat and
its Impact on American Business**

March 19, 2015

Good morning. The Committee will come to order. As a reminder to all members, we are in open session, and we should be careful not to discuss classified matters.

Welcome to today's hearing on the growing cyber threat and its impact on American business. The Committee welcomes Governor Tim Pawlenty of the Financial Services Roundtable, Mr. Andrew Tannenbaum of IBM, Mr. John Latimer of Total Systems Services, and Mr. Richard Bejtlich of FireEye. Before hearing from the witnesses, I'd like to make a few brief points.

Cyber attacks on U.S. business have posed a threat for some time, but their pace and scope have risen dramatically in the last year.

Last April Home Depot was breached, compromising tens of millions of credit card accounts and email addresses. In November, in an attempt to intimidate Sony Pictures from releasing a movie, intruders attacked the company and gained access to employee emails, confidential corporate information, and copies of unreleased films. This past January, Anthem announced it had been hacked, potentially jeopardizing the personal information of 80 million people. And just a few days ago, Premera Blue Cross revealed that its systems had been compromised, possibly exposing the medical and financial information of 11 million customers.

These attacks – whether by hostile foreign nations or by money-seeking criminals – are intolerable. U.S. companies must have assurances that their own information is secure, while their customers must have confidence that thieves will not steal their personal and financial records.

In light of the recent large-scale cyberattacks, it's clear that our companies and citizens do not have those assurances today.

As a result, Congress urgently needs to strengthen the security of our nation's digital infrastructure by creating more effective ways for businesses and the government to share information on cyber threats, and by providing strong liability protection for those exchanges.

I look forward to hearing the recommendations of our witnesses today about the best methods for achieving these goals.