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April 25, 2012

The Honorable David Dreier  
Chairman  
House Rules Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Louise Slaughter  
Ranking Member  
House Rules Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dreier and Representative Slaughter:

On behalf of the Center for Democracy & Technology, I urge the Rules Committee to make in order three essential privacy amendments to H.R. 3523, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA), before the Committee today. These amendments would address two fundamental issues we have with CISPA: the flow of personal information to the super-secret National Security Agency and the broad purposes for which that information can be used by the government.

Because of the significant privacy concerns raised by this bill, the Rules Committee should make in order privacy related amendments, including the following three essential amendments:

# 21 by Mr. Thompson and # 19 by Ms. Schakowsky

These amendments would preclude the NSA from receiving cybersecurity information from private companies. Instead, companies providing information to the federal government could only share directly with the Department of Homeland Security or another civilian agency. Permitting the NSA to receive information directly from companies would put an intelligence and surveillance agency in the role of collecting private information about online activity of Americans.

#25 by Ms. Lofgren, Mr. Paul and Mr. Polis

There must also be meaningful limitations on what the government can do with the cyber threat information it receives under the bill. Ms. Lofgren's amendment would ensure that the government uses cybersecurity information for cybersecurity and other limited law enforcement purposes. Importantly, it would



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not allow the government to use cybersecurity information for national security or surveillance purposes. Amendment #38 sponsored by Mr. Quayle does not sufficiently address CDT's privacy concerns on this issue and Ms. Lofgren's Amendment should be ruled in order.

For civil liberties to be protected, the Committee must permit these amendments to be offered for a vote when the full House takes up the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Harris', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Leslie Harris  
President/CEO  
Center for Democracy & Technology