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Primer on Chamber-NIST Cyber Collaboration

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce appreciates the constructive relationship that it has established with NIST, particularly concerning cybersecurity. Three examples of our joint efforts deserve highlighting. Links to select Chamber writings involving NIST are available on the next page.

- **The Cybersecurity Framework (the Framework).** The Chamber believes that the Framework has been a remarkable success. It represents one of the best examples of public-private partnerships in action. NIST and multiple stakeholders pride themselves on the Framework's development and promotion at home and overseas. Much of the business community's favorable reaction is owed in large measure to NIST, which tackled the Framework's development in ways that ought to serve as a model for other agencies.
- **Education and Advocacy.** NIST and the Chamber are allies in advancing cybersecurity awareness in the business community. NIST is batting 100% when it comes to participating in the Chamber's national cybersecurity education campaign. Agency principals have attended all 16 of the Chamber's regional events since 2014. NIST also joined the Chamber in Brussels this past December to advocate for international alignment with the Framework among government and corporate officials representing the EU, Japan, and Israel.
- **Internet of Things (IoT) security.** The Chamber wants to build on the positive rapport between NIST and industry to strengthen the cybersecurity of the IoT. The Chamber's leading 2018 objective is for policymakers to support the Department of Commerce in convening a framework-like effort on IoT security and resilience. Such a framework would help inform the benefits and drawbacks of setting minimum security standards for IoT devices through the federal procurement process, among other key topics.

It is important for VCAT members to understand that some lawmakers are seeking to remake NIST's trusted, scientific role in working with agencies. The Chamber has strong concerns with a bill that calls for agencies to increase their use of the Framework, which, on the surface, is a good thing. However, the legislation requires NIST to establish and chair a federal working group to assess and help audit agencies' cybersecurity.

NIST is not a regulator, and that's part of the organization's appeal. At the same time, NIST has a successful history of developing cyber standards, guidance, and best practices for federal agencies and industry to use collaboratively. The Chamber is urging policymakers not to disrupt the influential and respected role pertaining to cyber that NIST has worked hard to cultivate among multiple government entities and the business community.

The Chamber is committed to working closely with industry and government stakeholders, especially NIST, to identify and tackle tough cyber issues—ranging from botnet mitigation to international standardization to supply chain risk management—in practical and positive ways that encourage others to contribute their time, talent, and resources.

Select Chamber Writings

- Feb. 2015 Testimony before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on Building a More Secure Cyber Future: Examining Private Sector Experience With the NIST Framework
www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/chamber_testimony_senate_commerce_cyber_framework_feb42015.pdf
- Sept. 2015 Letter to NIST regarding the Draft Report on Strategic U.S. Government Engagement in International Standardization to Achieve U.S. Objectives for Cybersecurity
www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/september_24_2017_chamber_comments_draft_nistir_8074_intl_cyber_standardization_final.pdf
- Sept. 2016 Letter to the Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity on the status of cybersecurity in the digital economy
www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/u.s._chamber_letter_nist-wh_cyber_commission_rfi_sept._9_final_v2.1.pdf
- June 2017 Coalition letter to congressional appropriators regarding fiscal 2018 NIST funding
www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/170628_coalition_fy18cjsappropr_nistfunding_shelby_shaheen_culberson_serrano.pdf
- Oct. 2017 Presentation at NIST IoT Cybersecurity Colloquium
www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2017/10/23/mattheweggers_slides.pdf
- Nov. 2017 Critique of H.R. 1224, the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, Assessment, and Auditing Act of 2017
www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/hr_1224_nist_audit_bill_chamber_points_rev_nov_6.pdf
- Nov. 2017 Preliminary feedback to the sponsors of S. 1691, the Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2017
www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/final_uscc_feedback_s1691_federal_cyber_iot_bill_nov_13_2.pdf
- Jan. 2018 Letter to NIST on the Cybersecurity Framework Version 1.1 Draft 2
www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018/01/31/2018-01-19_-_u.s._chamber_of_commerce.pdf