

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 25, 2018

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We are concerned about Russia's capabilities with respect to cyberattacks on our energy infrastructure. In March 2018, a broad group of witnesses agreed to the necessity of a comprehensive threat assessment at an Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing. Furthermore, on July 23 2018, the Wall Street Journal reported that "[h]ackers working for Russia claimed 'hundreds of victims' last year in a giant and long-running campaign that put them inside the control rooms of U.S. electric utilities where they could have caused blackouts."¹

In March of this year, the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation confirmed that we have reason to be alarmed. In their joint alert TA18-074A "*Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors*", they characterized recent Russian efforts "targeting U.S. Government entities as well as organizations in the energy, nuclear, commercial facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors" as a "multi-stage intrusion campaign by Russian government cyber actors who targeted small commercial facilities' networks where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access into energy sector networks. After obtaining access, the Russian government cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and collected information pertaining to Industrial Control Systems."²

We are appreciative of the information included in the Director of National Intelligence's "Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community"³ and Executive Order No. 138000 of May 11, 2017 entitled "Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Critical Infrastructure"⁴ as well as additional data that has been provided to us through individual

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/articles/russian-hackers-reach-u-s-utility-control-rooms-homeland-security-officials-say-1532388110?redirect=amp#click=https://t.co/eZhwUvDP8r>

² <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18-074A>

³ <https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Testimonies/2018-ATA---Unclassified-SSCI.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-strengthening-cybersecurity-federal-networks-critical-infrastructure/>

conversations and briefings from officials within your administration. However, we believe more information must be provided to Congress addressing our specific concerns about Russian capabilities or interference with respect to our energy infrastructure.

Your administration has proposed the formation of a new Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response at the Department of Energy as a way to elevate the importance of cyber security issues. However, there is a need for additional cybersecurity resources to address our fundamental concerns. While cybersecurity efforts increased marginally at the Department of Energy, the Transmission Reliability and Resilience Office and the Resilient Distributions Systems Office saw significant reductions in the FY2019 Congressional Budget Request.

We believe the federal government needs to take stronger action prioritizing cybersecurity of energy networks and fighting cyber aggression to match your Department of Energy's outward facing commitment.

Within 90 days, we request in writing a thorough analysis of:

- a) the scope of Russian capabilities to use cyber-warfare to threaten our energy infrastructure;
- b) the extent to which the Russians have already attempted cyber-intrusions into our electric grid, pipelines, and other important energy facilities; and
- c) what steps your administration is currently taking to combat these Russian cyber warfare capabilities and intrusions into our energy facilities.

We are happy to receive your responses in an unclassified or classified form. We thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator

Cc:
The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

The Honorable Daniel Coats
Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence