



TAPS



June 3, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid:

The undersigned organizations urge the Senate to take up and pass S.754, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) of 2015. Enactment of information sharing and liability protection legislation is urgently needed to further enhance and incentivize communication among the federal government, the North American electric power sector, and other critical infrastructure sectors, which in turn will improve our ability to defend against cyber attacks.

While the electric power sector already engages in significant information sharing activities and has in place mandatory and enforceable reliability and cybersecurity standards, there remains a great need for the government and industry to better share actionable security information in a timely and confidential manner. We believe that S.754, which passed the Select Committee on Intelligence with strong bipartisan support, provides a framework necessary to foster even more meaningful information sharing while maintaining the proper balance between liability and privacy protections.

The electric power sector takes very seriously its responsibility to maintain the reliability, safety, and security of the electric grid. Beyond mandatory standards, the industry employs a “defense-in-depth” mitigation strategy against cyber and physical threats that combines preparation, prevention, resiliency, and response and recovery efforts. We also work closely with the federal government and other critical infrastructure sectors on which the electric sector depends through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, and share electric sector threat information through the Electricity Sector Information Sharing and Analysis Center. Passage of CISA will enhance these activities.

We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

American Public Power Association (APPA)
Canadian Electricity Association (CEA)
Edison Electric Institute (EEI)
Electric Power Supply Association (EPSA)
GridWise Alliance
Large Public Power Association (LPPC)
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)
Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS)