

COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY**  
CHAIRMAN LAMAR SMITH



For Immediate Release  
February 26, 2013

Media Contacts: Kim Smith Hicks, Zachary Kurz  
(202) 225-6371

**Statement of Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)  
Hearing on Cybersecurity Research and Development: Challenges and Solutions**

**Chairman Smith:** “The preamble to the Constitution states that one of the primary responsibilities of our federal government is to “provide for the common defense.” More than two hundred years later, the meaning has changed but the task remains the same.

“National defense in the digital age no longer just means protecting ourselves with arms against enemies who attack with traditional weapons. It now means protecting America from enemies who launch cyber attacks against our computers and networks.

“Cyber attacks against U.S. government and private sector networks are on the rise. In the last few weeks, some of America’s largest companies have been hacked. Even the most sophisticated companies can be vulnerable to cyber attacks. Recent targets include Apple, Facebook, Yahoo, the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

“Various agencies of the federal government also have been the target of attacks and attempted attacks. Unfortunately, evidence suggests that foreign governments may be among those responsible. Protecting America’s cyber systems is critical to our economic and national security. Americans deserve better protection and the federal government can help make sensitive information more secure.

“This challenge requires a thorough and comprehensive effort in both the public and private sectors. Private companies are increasing their investment in cybersecurity. Congress should support those efforts.

“Only Congress can provide the incentives and protections that would permit necessary information sharing among companies, and more importantly, between private companies and the federal government.

“Today’s hearing examines an important step that we can take to foster the kind of cooperation that this challenge requires. The “Cybersecurity Enhancement Act,” introduced by Committee members Michael McCaul and Daniel Lipinski, coordinates research and development activities to better address evolving cyber threats. The legislation promotes much-needed research and development to help create new technologies and standards that better protect America’s information technology systems.

“Cyber attacks threaten our national and economic security. To solve this problem, America needs a solution that involves the cooperation of many public and private sector entities. The McCaul-Lipinski legislation helps foster such an effort, which will make our computer systems more secure.

“I hope we can learn how to improve the bill today and quickly advance it through this Committee.”