



ACM US Public  
Policy Council

March 11, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Smith  
Chairman  
House Science, Space and Technology Committee  
2320 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
House Science, Space and Technology Committee  
394 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Johnson:

As four organizations committed to ensuring the strength of the computing fields, the Computing Research Association (CRA), Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers - USA (IEEE-USA), Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), and U.S. Public Policy Council of the Association for Computing Machinery (USACM) are pleased to support the committee's efforts to bolster federal information technology research through both the *Advancing America's Networking and Information Technology Research and Development Act* (H.R. 967), and the *Cyber Security Enhancement Act of 2013* (H.R. 756).

We believe both bills will make Federal IT R&D stronger. We're pleased that H.R. 967 would enact several of the recommendations of the latest reviews of the NITRD program by the President's Council of Advisors for Science and Technology. In particular, we are pleased that the bill requires the NITRD agencies to create a five-year strategic plan for the program, and to have the program's progress periodically reviewed by a committee of IT experts from academia and industry. Doing so will help ensure that the research priorities of the program reflect changes to the field and national priorities.

We believe that given the size and scope of the NITRD program, its importance to the Nation, and the rapidly-changing nature of the field, it is crucial that this IT advisory committee is composed of the leading minds in the academic and industrial research communities, and that the committee be free-standing, independent and able to report its findings directly to the President's Science Advisor. We are pleased that the bill language does not preclude this, but would appreciate additional emphasis of these characteristics in the bill or the report accompanying the bill.

We are also pleased that the committee recognizes that cyber security research represents a particularly important aspect of the NITRD program. Information technology constitutes the "control loop" of essentially every aspect of our critical national infrastructure -- the electric power grid, the financial grid, the telecommunications grid, the food distribution network -- making the computers and communications systems of the nation critical infrastructure themselves. Our organizations, along with the National Research Council and the President's Information Technology Advisory Committee, have all agreed that the most significant long-term step the Federal government can take to protect this information infrastructure is a sustained commitment to IT research and development, specifically in the areas of information and network security.

We are pleased that your legislation endorses this recommendation by providing new authorizations for a number of federal cyber security research programs. We have also, in the past, raised concerns about the

balance in the federal program between short and long-term efforts, and about the level of coordination between federal agencies. Your legislation's requirement that the participating agencies, with the assistance of the National Coordination Office, develop a strategic plan for federal cyber security research is a major step in addressing this concern.

We thank you for your work on this legislation and for your long-standing leadership of Federal IT research efforts. We are pleased to endorse both H.R. 967 and H.R. 756 and look forward to working with you and your colleagues as you endeavor to move this legislation this session.

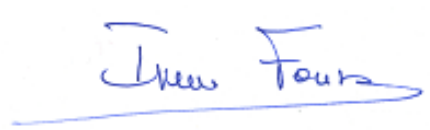
Sincerely,



Dr. Eric Grimson  
Chair  
Computing Research Association



Dr. Marc Apter  
President  
IEEE-USA



Dr. Irene Fonseca  
President  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics



Dr. Eugene Spafford  
Chair  
U.S. Public Policy Committee of the ACM

**About CRA:** The Computing Research Association is an association of more than 200 North American academic departments of computer science, computer engineering and related fields; laboratories and centers in industry, government and academia engaging in basic computing research; and affiliated professional societies. CRA's mission is to strengthen research and advanced education in the computing fields, expand opportunities for women and minorities, and improve public and policymaker understanding of the importance of computing and computing research in our society. <http://cra.org>

**About IEEE-USA:** IEEE-USA advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of the more than 200,000 engineering, computing and technology professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE. IEEE-USA is part of the IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society with over 400,000 members in over 160 countries. For more information, see <http://www.ieeeusa.org>

**About SIAM:** The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) is an international community with over 14,000 members from academia, industry, and government. Its members, from many different disciplines, have a common interest in applying mathematics in partnership with computational science towards solving real-world problems. <http://siam.org>

**About ACM and USACM:** ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery [www.acm.org](http://www.acm.org), is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking. The U.S. Public Policy Council of ACM (USACM) is chartered as the focal point for ACM's interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology.