



Information Technology Industry Council

June 14, 2013

The Honorable Buck McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith:

On behalf of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), we are writing to express ITI's opposition to Amendment #267, sponsored by Representative Ron Desantis, which was added to H.R. 1960, the Fiscal Year 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). ITI represents 52 of the world's most innovative companies from all corners of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, including hardware, software, and services. In today's interconnected global economy, where the integrity of ICT systems is essential to the development, production and distribution of goods and services, cybersecurity is a critical issue for all of our member companies.

As you know, Amendment #267 would limit the availability of federal funds "for collaborative cybersecurity activities with China" including "cybersecurity war games, cybersecurity working groups, the exchange of classified cybersecurity technologies or methods, and the exchange of procedures for investigating cyber intrusions."

We understand that some policymakers are concerned about military collaboration and dialogue between the United States and China in the realm of cybersecurity. However, the ICT industry believes that engagement—including productive discussions between the two governments—is a more effective way to address any concerns. As the two largest economies in the world, sustained and high-level dialogues between the U.S. and China in relation to strategic and national security issues are essential to eliminating misunderstanding and building trust.

In fact, in April 2013, the United States and China announced a new U.S.-China cyber working group, which includes senior leadership from within the U.S. and Chinese governments, and was endorsed by President Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping last week at the Sunnylands Leaders Summit. We believe this dialogue will be an important channel for consistent, frank exchanges between the two countries. At a time when cybersecurity is increasingly a priority among many major U.S. diplomatic initiatives, precluding U.S. national security expertise from participating in these discussions could be detrimental to our cyber policy globally by reducing a chance for greater stability and cybersecurity, particularly in mutual areas of interest.

While we acknowledge there are many differences between the U.S. and China regarding cyberspace policy matters, there are also a surprising number of areas where both countries share a common interest in securing the global cyber commons. For example, a significant amount of the world's manufacturing relies on Chinese power generation and distribution networks, and an increasing number of Chinese firms rely on information networks provided by U.S. financial institutions and their investors

for financial planning essential to sustained economic growth. These are just two of many examples where we have mutual cybersecurity interests and concerns. Both sides should recognize that the security of our global digital infrastructure is a shared interest—and dialogues among stakeholders in business and government will be essential to advance this interest. This amendment, if included, would have a chilling effect on these and other related bilateral dialogues.

Again, sound and productive U.S.-China relations serve vital multilateral interests, and we encourage you to ensure that the final version of H.R. 1960 enables U.S. national security interests to be fully represented as we pursue our cybersecurity goals.

Sincerely,

Danielle Kriz
Director, Global Cybersecurity Policy
Information Technology Industry Council

Maryam Cope
Director, Government Relations
Information Technology Industry Council

CC: Members, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives

Eric Rosenbach
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy
U.S. Department of Defense