



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

February 23, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As you are aware, we are still in the wake of the SolarWinds attack, arguably the most devastating cyber espionage campaign in history. I applaud your administration for its focus and elevation of the response to this attack and look forward to continuing to work with you to understand the full scope of the intrusion. The Committee on Homeland Security is undertaking a bipartisan effort to ensure federal agencies have the resources and authorities needed to thoroughly investigate and mitigate the full scope of this campaign and prevent such attacks in the future. Most importantly, we must ensure that the federal government leverages current expertise and recent authorities critical to this response.

I encourage the administration to fully leverage the expertise of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which was rightfully established in 2018 to be the lead federal civilian cybersecurity agency. I remain concerned that federal roles and responsibilities for .gov security are too dispersed and unable to nimbly respond to sophisticated threats. For too long CISA has not been provided the resources and centralized visibility it needs to carry out its mission. Any executive actions to remediate this devastating cyber campaign must utilize and build upon CISA's expertise and authorities – specifically the long overdue federal hunt authorities provided in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021. Any change in long standing federal roles and responsibilities in response to this significant cyber incident would only further confuse the federal cybersecurity landscape at a time when more clarity is in everyone's best interests.

The time has come, and we cannot afford to wait any longer. I urge you and your administration to empower CISA with the resources it needs to effectively carry out its mission. I look forward to working with your administration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Katko".

JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member