



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

March 12, 2021

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

Dear Mr. President,

As you are aware, our nation is facing the most dynamic and complex cyber threat landscape in history. While the federal government is still in the midst of putting the pieces together from the devastating SolarWinds cyber espionage campaign, the nation was hit with another alarming admission from Microsoft about a vulnerability in its email product used by thousands of entities in the private sector, state and local governments, and federal agencies.

I am greatly appreciative of the leadership and steady hand Acting Director Brandon Wales has provided during the presidential transition, and the steadfast dedication of the workforce during a challenging time. I am, however, very concerned about the delay in nominating a CISA Director. CISA finds itself at the forefront of not just one, but potentially two significant cyber incidents facing federal networks, and the private sector. Now more than ever we need permanent political leadership at the helm of our nation's lead federal civilian cybersecurity agency.

As I stated to you in my February 23rd letter, for too long CISA has not been provided the stature, resources, and centralized visibility it needs to carry out its mission. While incremental steps have been made, we must do more. This includes nominating an individual to lead the agency through this difficult time.

The time has come, and we cannot afford to wait any longer. I urge you and this administration to quickly name a nominee so the Senate can begin the confirmation process. I look forward to working with you and your team on this important matter.

Sincerely,

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

JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member