

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 13, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to request a briefing on the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to protect the United States homeland from Russian government cyber and disinformation threats in the wake of Russia's violent and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

The Russian government often engages in malicious cyber activities, including espionage, intellectual property theft, disinformation, propaganda, and cyberattacks, that target the United States. In response, the United States government has imposed sanctions on Russian security personnel and agents for various cyberattacks, including the SolarWinds cyber espionage campaign, and for acts of disinformation and interference, including Russian government-directed attempts to influence U.S. elections.

Given Russia's history of disruptive cyber and disinformation activities, we are concerned that the United States may be targeted in retaliation for actions taken to impose costs on Russia for its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. As we stand with the Ukrainian people, impose crushing sanctions on Vladimir Putin's regime, and push for additional security assistance to help Ukraine defend itself, we also must work to secure the homeland from retaliatory cyber activities. We therefore commend the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) for creating the Shields Up Technical Guidance webpage to help organizations prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the impact of cyberattacks in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. However, given the evolving threat landscape regarding potential cyberattacks and disinformation activities by Russia, we request a briefing that addresses the following questions:

- As the nation's cyber defense agency, what is CISA itself doing to monitor and proactively defend against Russian state-sponsored cyber threats, and is there a strategy in place should U.S. critical infrastructure be targeted?
- Are there specific U.S. entities or sectors that are targets, and if so, how is CISA proactively identifying and providing technical support to critical infrastructure owners and operators that are most at risk?
- How is the Shields Up Technical Guidance being disseminated to critical infrastructure owners and operators? Specifically, how is guidance being shared with smaller entities that do not have CIOs or CISOs and entities that are not members of the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative?

- How is the Department defending against Russian disinformation efforts? How has the disinformation threat level to the United States homeland changed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and what is the Department doing to mitigate that threat?
- How is CISA coordinating with international partners to advance operational coordination and build partner capacity, including for NATO Allies and Ukraine?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and we look forward to your prompt response.

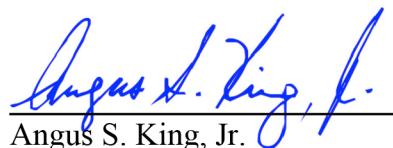
Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



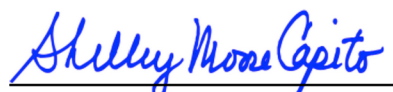
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



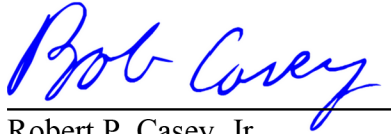
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



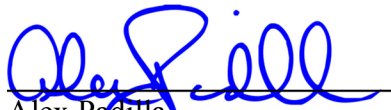
Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



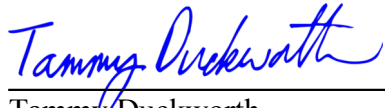
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



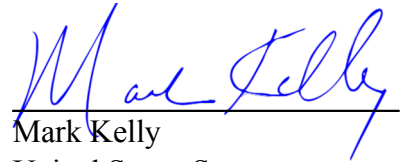
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

CC: Jen Easterly, Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
John Christopher Inglis, National Cyber Director
Anne Neuberger, Deputy National Security Advisor for Cyber and Emerging Technology