

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 16, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

Thank you for your leadership on critical oversight matters before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. As members of the Committee, we write to ask that you schedule time to consider new legislation we have introduced to improve the security of our nation's energy infrastructure.

We are on the brink of a potential crisis. In our roles on the Senate Intelligence Committee, we receive regular briefings on the security challenges facing our nation's infrastructure. The December 2015 attack on Ukraine's electric grid is just one example of the sophisticated threat we face in cyberspace. The need to engage experts in government and industry to better defend our critical energy infrastructure could not be clearer.

That's why on June 6, 2016, we introduced S. 3018, the *Securing Energy Infrastructure Act*, which would examine solutions to isolate and defend our energy sector from devastating cyber-attacks that could result in catastrophic damage to our economic and national security. Specifically, the bill would establish a two-year pilot program within the National Laboratories to identify new classes of security vulnerabilities in the energy sector, and research and test technology that could be used to isolate our most critical systems of from cyber-attacks. Our bill would also establish a working group, made up of both public and private sector experts, to evaluate the technology solutions proposed by the National Laboratories and to develop a national cyber-informed strategy for the energy sector.

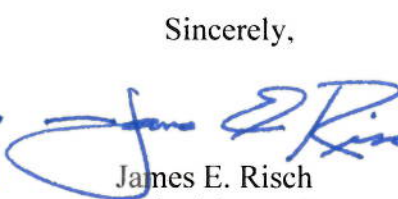
This legislation, which has been referred to the Committee, is the product of months of consultation with your staffs, the Department of Energy, industry representatives, and numerous other experts in this field. We request that you schedule a hearing on the concepts outlined in our bill and work with us to report S. 3018 out of the Committee before the August work period.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working closely with you to advance this and other proposals in furtherance of our national security.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Martin T. Heinrich
United States Senator