

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 28, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear President Biden:

The past year has illustrated the complexity, power, and necessity of a secure national digital infrastructure. Thorough attention to this issue has been critical as we as a nation rise to the cybersecurity challenge and emerge the better for it. On this topic we do want to express our concern at the lack of progress toward establishing a Continuity of the Economy Plan.

While continuity of government planning has long served as a cornerstone of crisis response, the United States still does not have a similar plan to ensure the rapid restart of our economy after a significant cyber disruption. The spate of attacks this past year, including those on Colonial Pipeline, meat supplier JBS, and those that impacted our education and health care systems on a daily basis have illustrated the devastating damage our adversaries, and criminal actors, could inflict upon our critical infrastructures. In the case of a major cyberattack, the key to resilience is to restart rapidly, and the only way to restart rapidly is to have a clear plan in place.

As you know, Section 9603 of the FY21 NDAA required that the executive branch develop and present a plan to “Maintain and restore the economy of the United States in response to a significant event.” This will entail working with a host of federal, state, and local governments in addition to critical private infrastructure sectors to prioritize response assets, identify required areas of investment, and ensure national readiness. The legislation further states that this plan must be submitted to Congress no later than two years following enactment. We are rapidly approaching the one-year mark and have yet to see progress on this vital project.

We urge you to consider explicitly placing responsibility for coordination on this issue with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). The DHS leadership team is experienced, and both Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and CISA Director Jen Easterly are well equipped, statutorily and personally, to serve as the nexus of the whole-of-government and private sector collaboration that will be required to make this Continuity of the Economy Plan a lasting feature of America’s crisis response.

Americans trust that when they turn on the spigot, use their credit card, or fill up their gas tank, the vast network of digital systems on which they rely will not fail. The Continuity of the Economy plan your administration builds will be integral to ensuring that trust remains intact for decades to come.

While we all hope such a plan never has to be used, we all know that in the event it is, effort and planning now will help ensure success in the future. It is for these reasons we implore you to begin dedicating time and resources to constructing this Continuity of the Economy plan - our families' future may very well depend on it.

Sincerely,



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The Honorable Angus King Jr. (I-ME)  
Co-Chairman  
Cyberspace Solarium Commission



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The Honorable Mike Gallagher (WI-08)  
Co-Chairman  
Cyberspace Solarium Commission