

INFORMATION SECURITY AND PRIVACY ADVISORY BOARD

*Established by the Computer Security Act of 1987
[Amended by the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002]*

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Jeffrey Zients
Deputy Director for Management
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20502

Dr. Patrick Gallagher
Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards
and Technology
Director, National Institute of Standards and
Technology
Gaithersburg, MD

Dear Mr. Zients and Dr. Gallagher:

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board (ISPAB). The ISPAB was originally created by the Computer Security Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-235) as the Computer System Security and Privacy Advisory Board, and amended by Public Law 107-347, The E-Government Act of 2002, Title III, The Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002. The statutory objectives of the Board include identifying emerging managerial, technical, administrative, and physical safeguard issues relative to information security and privacy.

At the Board's February 13-15, 2013 meeting, we received several briefings on the President's Executive Order (EO) on Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, which among other provisions, calls for protection of privacy and civil liberties. Of particular importance is its requirement that the Department of Homeland Security consult with the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB) to ensure that privacy and civil liberties protections are incorporated into the activities required by the EO.¹ The purpose of this letter is to convey the ISPAB's support for establishing the PCLOB so that it can serve the role intended in the Executive Order. Unfortunately, the PCLOB is not yet operational – it does not have a chair or full time staff - which effectively prevents forward progress in implementing the Executive Order. The ISPAB believes that a functioning PCLOB will help bring greater confidence that the Nation's cybersecurity is being protected while protecting the privacy and civil liberties of our citizens.

¹ [Executive Order](#) – Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, Sec. 5(c.)

The ISPAB supports the President's efforts to improve cybersecurity and looks forward to working with you as you implement the new Executive Order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Thomlinson". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Matt Thomlinson

Chair

Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board