



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Steven Lipner
Chair
Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board
c/o Board Secretariat
100 Bureau Drive, MS 8930
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

Dear Mr. Lipner,

As always, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) appreciates the insights of the Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board (ISPAB or Board). I appreciate your letter of December 9, 2021, reminding NIST about the Board's previous communication and providing updated views regarding resourcing of our privacy program.

We fully agree with the Board's comments concerning the growing importance of privacy issues, including the observation that privacy merits increased attention and resources. Within the constraints of the federal budgeting process, we have taken several steps towards that goal in our decision making and programs over the past several years. In terms of staffing, NIST's privacy team is supplemented by the expertise of others who may be formally assigned to work on other programs or issues, such as cybersecurity or artificial intelligence. We will continue to explore ways to creatively make the most of the resources we have.

NIST is mindful of the growing challenges and relevance of privacy issues. We intend to take that into consideration in the years ahead as we allocate our resources to address the growing list of high priority challenges we are called on to address. In order to help ensure that ISPAB's views on this important matter are considered, I will include the Board's input on this topic among the priority matters that I raise with Department and NIST leadership.

Again, thank you for sharing ISPAB's views and recommendations. I encourage you to do so regularly in the future.

Sincerely,

**JAMES
OLTHOFF**

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JAMES OLTHOFF
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James K. Olthoff, Ph.D.

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