
July 23, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer:


Western Governors encourage you to expedite Senate consideration of [S. 1846](#), the State and Local Government Cybersecurity Act of 2019. This bill provides necessary financial and technical support to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments to enhance cybersecurity, including election security.

Cybersecurity is a high priority of Western Governors (*see* WGA Policy Resolution [2019-02, Cybersecurity](#)). State governments are responsible for securing public networks, the state's digital assets, and citizen data, as well as coordinating their cybersecurity efforts with federal agencies and other entities. Governors lead efforts to plan and implement state cybersecurity programs, respond to cyberattacks, and investigate intrusions. Federal funding and technical assistance are critical to the success of these activities.

S. 1846 authorizes the Department of Homeland Security to make grants and enter into cooperative agreements with state, tribal, territorial, and local governments. It expands the Department's National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC) coordination with these government entities. It also promotes information-sharing, notifications, and technical assistance with respect to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, incidents, and information and election security.

The cybersecurity of our nation is an all-of-government endeavor. Governors are eager to consult and coordinate with the federal government on all aspects of the issue. S. 1846 will promote these intergovernmental relationships and enable states to better prevent, detect and respond to our nation's ever-growing cyber threats and incidents. Please do not hesitate to contact Western Governors if we can assist in the bill's expeditious passage.

Sincerely,



Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota
Chair, WGA



Kate Brown
Governor of Oregon
Vice Chair, WGA