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**Statement of Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas)  
Markup of H.R. 756, the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013**

**Chairman Smith:** The first bill for today's markup is H.R. 756, the "Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2013." I thank Representatives McCaul and Lipinski for introducing this bill. And I am pleased to be a cosponsor.

As our reliance on information technology expands, so do our vulnerabilities. Cyber attacks against U.S. government and private sector networks are on the rise. Protecting America's cyber systems is critical to our economic and national security.

Keeping our cyber infrastructure secure is a responsibility shared by different Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

The "Cybersecurity Enhancement Act," coordinates research and development activities to better address evolving cyber threats. The legislation promotes much-needed research and development to help create new technologies and standards that better protect America's information technology systems.

To improve America's cybersecurity abilities, this bill strengthens activities in four areas:

- (1) strategic planning for cybersecurity research and development needs across the federal government;
- (2) basic research at NSF, which we know is important to increasing security over the long-term;
- (3) NSF scholarships to improve the quality of the cybersecurity workforce; and
- (4) improved research, development and public outreach organized by NIST related to cybersecurity.

These are modest but important changes that will help us better protect our cyber networks. Cyber attacks threaten our national and economic security. To solve this problem, America needs a solution that involves the cooperation of many public and private sector entities. This legislation helps foster such an effort, which will make our computer systems more secure.

Many industry partners and stakeholders have written letters in support of this bill. They include: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce; National Association of Manufacturers; TechAmerica; Computing Research Association; Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers-USA; Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics; Financial Services Roundtable; and the U.S. Public Policy Council of the Association for Computing Machinery.

I am glad this is a bipartisan effort, and look forward to this bill becoming law.