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February 9, 2021

The Honorable Avril Haines  
Director of National Intelligence  
Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
Washington, DC 20511

General Paul M. Nakasone  
Director, National Security Agency  
9800 Savage Rd.  
Fort Meade, MD 20755

The Honorable Christopher Wray  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Mr. Brandon Wales  
Acting Director, Cybersecurity and  
Infrastructure Security Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
300 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Director Haines, General Nakasone, Director Wray, and Acting Director Wales:

We are writing to urge you to name and empower a clear leader in the United States' response to the SolarWinds cyber breach that has affected numerous federal agencies, and thousands of other private sector entities. The federal government's response so far has lacked the leadership and coordination warranted by a significant cyber event, and we have little confidence that we are on the shortest path to recovery.

The briefings we have received convey a disjointed and disorganized response to confronting the breach. Taking a federated rather than a unified approach means that critical tasks that are outside the central roles of your respective agencies are likely to fall through the cracks. The threat our country still faces from this incident needs clear leadership to develop and guide a unified strategy for recovery, in particular a leader who has the authority to coordinate the response, set priorities, and direct resources to where they are needed.

The handling of this incident is too critical for us to continue operating the way we have been. Presidential Policy Directive-41 was not meant to impede a joint response to significant cyber incidents and clearly gives the Unified Coordination Group the authority, with mutual agreement and consistent with applicable legal authorities, to realign operational control of respective agency assets to respond to such incidents. We urge you to reach such an agreement and assign a clear leader to ensure we confront and mitigate this incident fully, and as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Warner  
Chairman

Marco Rubio  
Vice Chairman

Cc: Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor