

June 4, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

I write you urging you to correct your predecessor's abdication of responsibility to defend our nation from cyberattacks. The entirety of America's critical infrastructure are in grave danger from our adversaries and criminals using the latest artificial intelligence (AI) enabled tools to find vulnerabilities and exploit them for financial gain, to create chaos, or both. I urge you to prioritize the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) – restore its budget, hire subject matter experts and leaders with experience defending critical infrastructure and cyberspace, and let the talented and capable CISA staff do their jobs to protect the nation. Fixing CISA will take time, but you can make immediate progress by restoring CISA's cooperative agreement and funding with the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC).

The MS-ISAC was born out of the lessons of 9/11 and has provided real-time threat information to state, local, Tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments and organizations for two decades. Until last year, the MS-ISAC provided free cybersecurity resources and monitoring to 19,000 SLTT members, as well as bi-directional information sharing among governments, enhancing national security through collaborative, real-time threat data exchanges. This feedback loop transformed isolated defense efforts into a coordinated national system supporting SLTT governments protecting critical infrastructure. Your predecessor terminated federal support for the MS-ISAC on the grounds that the MS-ISAC's work "no longer effectuate[d]"¹ the White House's priorities. Following Secretary Noem's defunding of the MS-ISAC and forcing it to

¹ Wood, C. (2025, March 11). MS-ISAC loses federal support for threat intelligence, incident response. *StateScoop*. <https://statescoop.com/ms-isac-loses-federal-support/>

transition to a fee-based membership, Secretary Noem banned grant recipients from using federal funds for costs associated with MS-ISAC membership.²

Secretary Noem's abrupt cancelation of MS-ISAC funding not only endangered national security, but it placed an unanticipated, costly item on SLTT budgets and undeserved pressure on leaders to shoulder the burden of protecting critical infrastructure without access to the full threat picture that the MS-ISAC provided. Many communities, particularly small and rural communities, cannot access MS-ISAC without federal support and every community in America is more vulnerable without the MS-ISAC serving as a national hub for community defense coordination. Defunding critical infrastructure protections has led to information silos and deprived communities across the nation of the ability to collaborate on securing our critical infrastructure – the foundation of America's national security, our economy, and our public health and safety.

Critical infrastructure owners, operators, law enforcement, and SLTT leaders are worried; they need CISA back to full strength, and soon.³ I am working to restore CISA and the federal government's leadership to protect our critical infrastructure, and I hope you will join me. I am introducing legislation to restore CISA and the federal government's full capability to protect our critical infrastructure by reinstating and expanding federal funding for the MS-ISAC. This will ensure states, localities, Tribes, and territories can access the tools and information necessary to protect their critical infrastructure. I would like you to join me in convening Governors and leading AI companies to understand AI's risks to critical infrastructure and how to use the same technology to defend against them.

This is too important to let politics get in the way. I will stand alongside anyone committed to ensuring that when our adversaries test our critical infrastructure, it holds fast. I want to work with you to achieve that end and ask that you reach out to me directly to coordinate — because the question is not whether our critical infrastructure will be targeted, but whether we will be ready when it is. The people of Oklahoma — and every American — will measure your tenure at DHS by whether our critical infrastructure was safer when you left than when you arrived.

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

² Wood, C. (2025, August 4). New state, local cyber grant rules prohibit spending on MS-ISAC. *StateScoop*. <https://statescoop.com/state-local-cyber-grant-msisac-2025/>

³ News Staff. (2026, September 19). *Law enforcement urges Congress to restore cybersecurity funding* [Video]. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6379795760112>