



Policy Resolution 2.2019

## **Synchronizing Congressional Oversight and Legislative Measures on Cybersecurity**

### **Originating Sponsor**

Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky

### **Co-Sponsor**

Representative William E. "Bill" Sandifer, III, South Carolina

**WHEREAS**, the Twenty-First Century has brought forth a new age of innovation, automation, big data, artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, and machine learning, and America needs to be able to detect, respond, and prevent ever increasing cyberattacks, a growing and critical international warfare that is capable of serious impact on the functioning of government and industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the nation's electric energy grid system, our energy resource supply and delivery infrastructure, finance, communications, election methodology, manufacturing, chemical industries, commercial process, defense industry and operations, emergency management, agricultural resources, government facilities and services, public healthcare, information technology, transportation, and water and wastewater systems are vital and critical to preserve the quality of life in America; and

**WHEREAS**, a dynamic threat environment exists across the nation due to the interconnection and interconnectedness of our data systems to other less critical infrastructure systems requiring strategic information sharing between government at all levels and the public and private sectors; and

**WHEREAS**, state governments are responsible for securing public networks, state digital infrastructure, and citizen data, and they must coordinate cybersecurity efforts with federal agencies and potentially affected public and private sector organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, in May of 2018, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Homeland Security determined that 71 of 96 federal agencies are at risk or high risk of cyber intrusions and are not equipped to determine how threat actors seek to gain access to information; and

**WHEREAS**, the public and private sectors are dedicating increased resources to education, training, and recruitment of cyber workers so that America is better protected from this insidious threat matrix.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Southern States Energy Board, meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, on September 24, 2019, urges the Congress to improve the synchronization of congressional oversight and legislative measures on cybersecurity. Congress must continue to clarify the roles and responsibilities of federal agencies in preparing for, responding to, and preventing cyberattacks; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, centralized authority, points of contact, and formalized communications are necessary to address increasingly complex threats. Congress must be aware that the

increasing number and inconsistency of federal security regulations is an unnecessary burden for state governments and is an inefficient use of constrained security resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Southern States Energy Board recommends the restoration of the position of White House cybersecurity coordinator to synchronize and harmonize disparate federal regulations, coupled with a working group of key state and federal officials, to provide greater insight and education on the complexity of the threat network of nefarious nation-states and methods used to repel attacks; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Southern States Energy Board urges the federal government to continue providing essential cybersecurity risk briefings and resources to our member states. We also support the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Cybersecurity and Communications for its continued interaction with state chief information officials; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Southern States Energy Board urges the Administration to propose, and Congress to provide, long-term authorization and appropriations for cybersecurity education and workforce development to sustain the nation's cybersecurity workforce.



*Unanimously adopted on September 24, 2019, at the  
59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern States Energy Board in Louisville, Kentucky*