

Congressman Billy Tauzin (R-AL)
Chairman of House Energy and Commerce Committee
Introducing Cyber Security Study to Hill Press Conference
July 24, 2002

"First of all, I want to tell you how timely and how important this study is to literally serve as a wakeup call to businesses in consumers in our country about the risk of a major cyber attack on U.S. businesses and the effect of a potential disruption that could further hurt our economy, which as you all know is struggling to recover...."

"The reason that this report is so timely and important is that we are about to vote on creating a department of homeland security and instrumental inside that legislation is going to be language creating within that department efforts to improve the cyber security of the public sector -- agencies that have critical data bases, critical information that obviously might be targets for cyber attacks. Inside Homeland security, we intend to address the need for protecting those systems much more securely than they are currently protected..."

"This report is a wake up call to the private sector. It basically says that the private sector industries and businesses have as much to be concerned about as the public sector. This report, from over 600 of the people that are critically responsible for information technology systems, is a well thought out, well reasoned, well documented summary of the reasons why everyone in the business community and in the private sector needs to pay extraordinary attention to cyber security and why we all need to educate ourselves on what is available in the new technology and what might be encouraged in terms of more research and development of creating a more secure system..."