June 8, 2004

Mr. Franklin S. Reeder
Chairman, Information Security and Privacy Advisory Board (ISPAB)
The Reeder Group
3200 N. Nottingham Street
Arlington, VA 22207

Dear Frank,

It has been our custom in the past to request the Board's advice on a list of activities that we felt would be useful for both the Board and NIST to meet our respective statutory responsibilities. Typically, the list includes recommended Board "projects" relevant to technical issues of interest.

While in the process of finalizing the current list for submission to the Board, this year I propose to shift the emphasis to more immediate strategic issues. As you know, we have just experienced substantial budget cuts. Although the President has called for substantial cybersecurity budget increases for NIST in FY-2005, we are not certain what the future will bring. In addition, we are expecting to soon have new Laboratory leadership in place. So, stepping back to take a larger view may be appropriate.

There is no better time to revisit our current strategy and get valuable input from the Board on how we enhance and sustain our posture in the information security arena. I have included below for your consideration several strategic areas where input provided by the Board would be very helpful.

- **Budget**: How can we develop a sound strategy to enhance our funding situation? Are there proposed topics that you suggest we propose in future budget initiatives for which a compelling case can be made?

- **Building Effective Strategic Partnerships in Support of Homeland Security:** How can we position ourselves to maximize our support of current homeland security objectives and initiatives? What are the strategic focus areas where our expertise can best support those with homeland security responsibilities?

- **Better Outreach**: How can we more effectively communicate and demonstrate our products and capabilities to public and private entities? Is there a supporting role that the Board may wish to play?

NIST

- **NIAP Strategy:** The analysis of the current NIAP and any potential enhancements, with a corresponding eye toward funding those improvements, would be helpful.

- **Emerging Issues:** We continue to seek Board input on emerging issues with potentially broad impact in the areas of security and privacy (principally technical mechanisms) as they relate to the NIST mission. It is important that we take every opportunity to set our agenda so that we are positioned to be ahead of issues rather than play "catch up" later.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this request. We look forward in engaging the Board and receiving your advice.

Sincerely,

Ed Roback
Chief
Computer Security Division