



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
MAY 15 2002

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Science, Technology,
and Space
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter presents the views of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on S. 2182, the Cyber Security Research and Development Act, a bill to authorize funding for computer and network security research and development and research fellowship programs, and for other purposes.

NIST is committed to improving cyber security, and through the Computer Security Act of 1987, has the mission to develop standards, guidelines, and associated methods and techniques for Federal unclassified computer systems. We applaud the intent of the bill to improve the security of the nation's computer and network systems and infrastructures. There is near universal agreement that we need to pursue greater research in this area. In order to do this on a very large scale, however, the nation needs to significantly increase the supply of qualified researchers. NIST's information security program supports strong cybersecurity for both homeland defense and E-Government by enabling improvements in the security of electronic programs. Under the FY 2003 Budget, NIST will conduct standards and technology work to help industry produce more secure, yet cost-effective, products. NIST's work will also include cryptographic standards and guidelines, public key infrastructure, and security research and testing.

NIST supports the objectives of S. 2182, and welcomes the opportunity to work with the Committee as it proceeds through the legislative process. The authorized funding levels for new activities in sections 8 through 11 total more than \$32 million. We urge that these sections of the bill be revised to conform to the President's FY 2003 Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views. The Office of Management and Budget has advised us that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to submission of this letter.

Sincerely,

Arden L. Bement, Jr.
Director

NIST