

SAMPLE SPEECH

I appreciate the opportunity to be with you here today.

Well, these days I am just happy to be anywhere. My dad is fond of saying I got five boys, four turned out really good and I got one in Congress.

NARUC has been instrumental in the success of my cyber information sharing bill and has been a great partner. For that I thank you.

Now I would like to know, which one of you was responsible for the blackout in New Orleans during the Super Bowl! I want names, and you know if you don't give them up, I am the Intelligence Committee Chairman and I know people who have a way of getting the names.

As you know, with the start of a new Congress will bring new additions to the Intelligence Committee. The Democrats will add three new members to their roster and we will add one new. I have to say, Intel is a great committee and I always have members coming up to me and asking how they can secure a spot. One particular new member from Virginia is especially eager to join the ranks. You may have heard of him, former Marine and now Congressman Nicholas Brody? While I appreciate his credentials, there is just something about that guy....

Anybody watch Homeland? Bad Intelligence Community joke I guess.

Well the bottom line is American companies like those you regulate are under attack and need the government's help, but I believe they need more information not more regulation. As you know, you can have the best IT folks in the world but if they don't know what they are looking for it can be tough to protect their networks.

There is a long history over thousands of years of countries spying on each other to better understand each other's plans, intentions and capabilities.

It would, of course, be odd for the Chairman of the Intelligence Committee to lament these efforts. These espionage activities over the years, however, have largely been focused on collecting intelligence on foreign governments and militaries, not on brazen and wide-scale theft of intellectual property from foreign commercial competitors as is currently being conducted by China. The worst might be that they are taking this intellectual property and then using to artificially compete with American business in the global marketplace. In one example, one manufacturer in the U.S. spent \$1 billion and ten years on research and development on a product and overnight lost everything to a Chinese hacker. So that Chinese company that the hacker will hand the IP off to, now has a ten year, \$1 billion head start. No risk, no cost.

I am not aware of a precedent in history for such a massive and sustained intelligence effort by a government to blatantly steal commercial data and intellectual property. I believe it is the largest transfer of wealth potential in the history of the world.

China's economic espionage cyber-espionage has reached an intolerable level and we must act to help to ensure that American companies have all the information they need to defend their networks. We must do this to protect America's economy, our jobs and literally our way of life which is under siege by the Chinese.

I worked hand-in-hand with the Ranking Democrat—Dutch Ruppersberger—on our cyber sharing legislation, which is virtually

unheard of these days. Our concise, 18 page bill passed the House floor by a vote of 248-168.

Unfortunately the Senate was unable to reach a compromise on cyber security and the bill died in the Senate. This issue is too important to let languish a minute longer. Our Committee is taking action to get the process moving in the House, as we intend to pass a bill to the House floor by next month. We need the Senate to act as well.

It is no secret that the White House is looking soon to release an Executive Order on cybersecurity. This most certainly will impact electric utilities as “critical infrastructure.” Though I am not a big mandate, government regulation guy, if the White House moves forward with this effort my hope is it takes pressure of the Senate to do a big, ugly regulatory bill that likely can’t pass the Senate and I know can’t pass in the House.

Going forward it is my hope that we can forge an agreement in the Senate with Senators Feinstein and Chambliss as well as Senators Carper and Coburn to move forward on a very narrow, very targeted information sharing bill that would allow utilities and other companies in America the classified threat information they need to protect their networks.

There is no doubt in my mind that the brightest minds, the problem solvers, are in private industry. I want to ensure that the government continues to do what it does best which is collect information and I want to empower private business to do what it does best: innovate.

That’s why with your help and the help of the utilities you regulate, if we do this right we can protect our fellow citizens from cyber attacks.

Certainly our economy and our country cannot function without healthy, safe utilities and the critical electricity they provide to each of our communities.

Thanks for what you do, thanks for being part of the solution and thanks for having me here today. Now direct me to the guy who screwed up the Super Bowl!

I'd be happy to answer any questions you have.