

SAMPLE SPEECH

I appreciate being here with you 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.

Thank you to Secretary Chertoff and Covington & Burling for putting together this important event and for your interest in such an important issue to the U.S. economy.

You know there's a lot of bickering in Washington these days but I think every person in this room can agree on one thing and that is that the Internet is one of the greatest innovations in human history.

It has changed the way we communicate with each other. It has changed the way we do business. It has changed authoritarian government's ability to control their own people. And it has unleashed a spirit of innovation and ingenuity not seen since the industrial age.

The core of this innovation though is under assault by foreign governments. So why on earth would we not stand up today, right now to protect it?

Why would we not tear down the barriers between government and the private sector to share classified threat information that we all know is putting our networks in jeopardy? This has allowed foreign governments to conduct what I believe is the largest transfer of wealth in history.

Dutch and I worked hand in hand to pass an 18 page bill, which passed on the House floor with a bipartisan vote last year. It's a bill that

protects privacy and individual liberties. 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 and we intend to pass a bill out of committee later this month. We need the Senate to act as well.

I am asking for your help today. Many of you have worked tirelessly on the very innovation and intellectual property that is being rampantly stolen and then repurposed to compete against your companies in the global marketplace.

You also know what will happen if we don't act soon with a private-sector driven solution. A major cyber-attack will occur and Congress will do what it does best after a crisis: over-react. You also know what that over-reaction will look like. It will be a big-government, regulatory, slow and ugly approach that will stifle the very openness and muffle the very innovation that made the Internet the phenomenon it is.

Dutch and I have worked with every major stakeholder in this process. For two years last Congress and still today we are working with the privacy groups to get them to a comfort level with the bill. There are a lot of misconceptions with what is in the bill. This is not a government surveillance program. This is not Uncle Sam reading your email about Grandma May's bunions. This is about sharing classified cyber threat information with the private sector at the speed of light.

We are working with Members who have civil liberties and privacy concerns to make our language airtight to alleviate some of their concerns. We don't want the bill to do the things that some of them are afraid it will do so if we can put language directly into the bill that

gives them a greater comfort level and doesn't make the program unworkable we are happy to do it.

Dutch and I are in regular conversations with the Senate and the players there. We are working with Senators Feinstein, Chambliss, Wyden, McCain, Reed and others who have an interest. We are negotiations with the White House to get them to a better comfort level with the bill following their issuance of an Executive Order on standards. We are hopeful that we will be able to negate a veto threat which should help our numbers.

If we don't get this right now, I fear someone else will get it very wrong later. And we can't get this done without you.

Thanks for being interested in this important issue and for having me here today. I hope you will leave here today and take action to protect 1/6th of our economy and the Internet which is now so vital to our way of life.