

Via Hand Delivery

July 7, 2017

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reed:

We are writing in support of S.536, the Cybersecurity Disclosure Act of 2017.¹

The Council of Institutional Investors (CII) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit association of employee benefit plans, foundations and endowments with combined assets under management exceeding \$3 trillion. Our voting member funds include major long-term shareowners with a duty to protect the retirement savings of millions of workers and their families. Our associate (non-voting) members include a range of asset managers with more than \$20 trillion in assets under management.²

Investors are looking to company boards for leadership in addressing the risks and mitigating the damage associated with cyber incidents.³ CII believes that “[e]ffective cybersecurity risk management starts with the board.”⁴ We, therefore, applaud you for pursuing S.536 and for doing so in a bi-partisan manner. CII strongly supports the stated goal of the bill to “promote transparency in the oversight of cybersecurity risks at publicly traded companies.”⁵

¹ S.536, 115th Cong. (Mar. 7, 2017), available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/536/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22S.+536%22%5D%7D&r=1>.

² For more information about the Council of Institutional Investor (Council or CII) and our members, please visit the Council’s website at <http://www.cii.org/members>.

³ Council of Institutional Investors, “Prioritizing Cybersecurity, Five Investor Questions for Portfolio Company Boards” 2 (Apr. 2016), available at <http://www.cii.org/files/publications/misc/4-27-16%20Prioritizing%20Cybersecurity.pdf>.

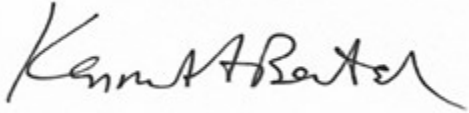
⁴ *Id.*

⁵ S.536.

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We thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Please feel free to let me know if I can be of any help as this measure makes its way forward. I can be contacted at 202.822.0800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Bertsch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ken Bertsch
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Mark Warner, United States Senate
The Honorable Susan Collins, United States Senate