



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 13, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Madam Secretary:

We have been informed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that during fact finding activities using open source material, certain information was discovered related to a contracted vendor with the Maryland State Board of Elections. That vendor had undergone an ownership change since its initial selection in 2013 that could be of interest due to the nature of the parent company and its investors.

In the interest of ensuring that the State of Maryland election system remains secured to every extent possible, and any situation that could potentially compromise the integrity of the system is immediately and thoroughly evaluated and investigated, we as Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Delegates, collectively request that the DHS Office of Cybersecurity and Communications provide the State of Maryland with technical assistance to evaluate the network utilized by the Maryland State Board of Elections.

We are requesting specifically that Assistant Secretary Jeanette Manfra, Election Task Force Director Matthew Masterson, and Hunt Team Leader Mark Bristow perform technical analyses including but limited to: Evaluating the network security, auditing network integrity, and providing whatever support and service deemed appropriate and necessary to Linda H. Lamone, Administrator, Maryland State Board of Elections.

The protection of the State of Maryland election network is one of the most solemn responsibilities that we as elected leaders are entrusted to oversee. We have collectively decided that this is one of the most pressing issues that demands our attention and has therefore become our joint priority. The mere fact that we have had discussions with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Department of Homeland Security, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications should provide evidence of our grave concern regarding this matter. We are resolved to ensure that this matter is fully examined to ensure Marylanders can have faith in the integrity of their election system.

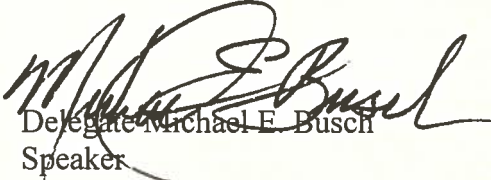
The State of Maryland will proceed with the 2018 General Election in less than 104 days, and we are respectfully requesting that all of the aforementioned technical assistance, guidance and direction be performed within the shortest time possible allowing corrective action if deemed necessary.

Walter F. "Pete" Landon, Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, has been in contact with the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications and will serve as our liaison regarding this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact our Offices or Director Landon with any questions related to our request or other concerns of mutual interest.

Respectfully,


Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor


Senator Thomas V. Mike Miller
President


Delegate Michael E. Busch
Speaker

- cc. Assistant Secretary Jeanette Manfra, DHS Office of Cybersecurity and Communications
- John Felker, Director, DHS, NCCIC
- Matthew Masterson, DHS Election Task Force
- Mark Bristow, DHS Hunt Team
- Bridgette Walsh, COS to Assistant Secretary Manfra
- Linda H. Lamone, Administrator, Maryland State Board of Elections
- Walter F. "Pete" Landon, Director, Maryland GOHS