

JUL 19 1999

Dr. Willis H. Ware  
Chairman, Computer System Security  
and Privacy Advisory Board  
RAND  
1700 Main Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90406-2138

Dear Dr. Ware:

On behalf of the Secretary of Commerce, thank you for the Computer System Security and Privacy Advisory Board's recommendations regarding the need for security in our planned Electronic Commerce (EC) initiative. The Department has long recognized that both industry and public acceptance of EC depends upon strong security and privacy safeguards. Please be assured that they will be given appropriate prominence and attention as we move forward with our planned initiative.

In your letter, you also described the Board's concerns about the technical resources and executive leadership of our computer security program. Competition for resources for many worthy programs is keen, particularly given the tight fiscal constraints in the Federal budget process. Nonetheless, we continue to press for additional resources within the established budget process. In recent testimony before Congress, I also encouraged Federal agencies to support security despite limited information technology budgets.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the Board's response to my letter requesting the Board's input in four areas. I am pleased to hear that the Board is focusing on these areas and look forward to hearing of your progress in the months ahead. Specific ideas regarding the Board's proposed workshop (conference goals, panel topics, proposed speakers, and so forth) on security metrics would also be appreciated.

Please extend my appreciation to the members of the Board for their input and continued service to the nation.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
RAYMOND G. KAMMER**

Raymond G. Kammer  
Director