

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Lee Terry (R-NE) today engaged in a colloquy on the House floor with Chairman Robert Aderholt (R-AL), of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, to express his concern with proposals that would allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to impose cyber security regulations on private infrastructure that it deems "critical."

Following is an excerpt of Congressman Terry's statement:

"This Administration wants to expand DHS's role in designating private networks as critical infrastructure for the purpose of subjecting them to regulation, but it has yet to take care of it's own networks. I commend Chairman Aderholt for including language in this bill that requires executive branch agencies to get their act together and formulate expenditure plans to protect their own networks.

If they can't even secure federal networks, why in the world would we want to give them authority to regulate private sector networks?

I understand that DHS currently works with the private sector on a voluntary basis, but that should be the extent of their involvement with critical infrastructure. As a member of the Speaker's Task Force on Cyber Security, as well as, the Co-Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Working Group on Cyber Security, I have the very firm opinion that DHS simply should not be allowed to regulate cyber critical infrastructure in the private sector."