



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

February 25, 2022

Ms. Amanda Crawford  
Executive Director  
Texas Department of Information Resources  
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Director  
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Ms. Crawford and Colonel McCraw:

As you are aware, the United States is on high alert for enhanced potential Russian cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure and private businesses across the country, including in Texas. Protecting the state of Texas from cyber threats during this time of Russian aggression is paramount.

Over the past year, the State has taken significant strides to bolster its cybersecurity defenses. This includes the Texas Legislature passing multiple new laws that protect critical infrastructure, safeguard Texan's personal data, enhance emergency response, and provide over \$250 million to support cybersecurity efforts. I also applaud the actions your agencies have taken to secure the safety of our state, including increased monitoring and preparation for cyberattacks, the use of the latest cybersecurity tools to block threats, and the constant communication with federal and private sector security partners that have enhanced the state's defenses.

To further protect Texans from potential cybersecurity threats, I am directing you to use every available resource to safeguard the state's critical infrastructure and to assist local governments and school districts with their needs. Critical actions which need to be taken include the following:

- Enhance Texas' cyber security through the use of best industry practices and other key measures.
- Ensure Texas can quickly detect a potential cyber intrusion through the use of software services, such as antivirus and endpoint detection and response technologies.
- Prepare for an intrusion by utilizing a cyber incident response team.
- Maximize the state's resilience to a destructive cyber incident.

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I also ask you to track and report any attacks from Russian sources so the public is fully aware of their tactics.

My staff is ready to assist you all with this effort. Please keep me and my office apprised of any needs or concerns as they arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:mhd