The Honorable Sherwood Boehlert  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2002

Dear Representative Boehlert:

On behalf of EDUCAUSE, I am happy to convey our support for your efforts to enact the Cyber Security Research and Development Act (H.R.3394) and the Networking and Information Technology Research Advancement Act (H.R. 3400).

EDUCAUSE, representing more than 1700 higher education institutions and its association partners support the goals of both legislative bills. Our memberships are involved in activities addressing middleware issues of authentication, authorization and accounting; providing end-to-end high performance networking and a concern with quality of service. Further, our members are recipients of NSF Information Technology Research (ITR) grants and are key participants in large scale networking research, software design and information technology workforce education and training.

We applaud the overall provisions of the computer security legislation to provide peer-reviewed grant programs designed to support research in basic network security, the establishment of a multidisciplinary Center for Computer and Network Security Research and the creation of a grants program for colleges and universities to improve education programs - both undergraduate and master's degree level - in this field.

We concur that ensuring long term funding for the NITRD program is critical to supporting research and development of the ever expanding Internet as well as the necessary educated workforce. We also recognize that the coordinated interagency approach, currently in place, must be maintained if we are to achieve continued success. Therefore, we support passage of the NITRAA to continue and establish increased authorization limits for the interagency programs that are of importance to colleges and universities.

We are grateful for your leadership and the bipartisan support demonstrated for both bills, and appreciate your efforts to ensure enactment. EDUCAUSE is pleased to offer support for the Networking and Information Technology Research Advancement Act and Cyber Security Research and Development Act.

Sincerely,

Brian Hawkins
President,
EDUCAUSE

cc. The Honorable Nick Smith

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