



July 30, 2010

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 211  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

The Security Industry Association (SIA) respectfully opposes Senate Bill 190, which would require the prior written consent for the use of biometric technology in identification applications. We strongly believe that this legislation unfairly targets biometric technology and will ultimately result in the use of less secure identity solutions. SIA is an international trade association and leading voice for more than 350 manufacturers, distributors and integrators of electronic and physical security solutions.

Biometric technology answers the question, "Are you who you say you are?" Open standards are available to further enhance this technology to provide a more unified approach to verifying an individual's identity. Biometrics provide an effective measure against fraud and identity theft in applications as diverse as personal access to buildings/computers, banking security, business-to-business transactions and e-commerce.


The federal government has deployed a trusted biometric enhanced identity program for federal employees and contractors as mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12). This Personal Identity Verification (PIV) program mandated by HSPD-12 safeguards government facilities, buildings, and computers from unauthorized usage. The PIV model also is being leveraged for civilian workers with the Transportation Worker Identity Credential (TWIC). This biometric enhanced identity card is mandated for use by port, dock, and truck drivers to help keep America's ports safe and secure.

The public expects their Personal Identifying Information (PII) to be protected whether it is biometric data or a Social Security Number. The security industry is experienced in the secure submission and retention of data, having completed many public and private sector projects. We recognize that systems need to be able to prove who was responsible for enrolling the biometrics and who initiated a search process. Such security can be

implemented using smartcard authentication of individuals together with additional data security and encryption schemes that are incorporated to prevent unauthorized access.

Ensuring that privacy and personal information collected through the use of identification documents is very important to our members. In fact, we are in the final stages of developing a framework that will help educate policymakers, consumers and industry stakeholders on technology and privacy related issues, will be released in September. We would be pleased to share that document with you and your colleagues. Unfortunately, SIA cannot support Senate Bill 190 at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Chace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "C".

Richard Chace,  
Executive Director & CEO,  
Security Industry Association