

congratulate the Ohio State Buckeyes for their outstanding victory and commend Oregon as well for fielding a great team, because their quarterback is from my original home State of Hawaii.

And I also want to just talk to all this leadership about how we can keep the progress going that we're seeing, particularly in our economy. The latest job report indicates that the recovery continues to move in a robust fashion. We've now created 58 straight months of private sector job growth, about 11 million jobs created in the private sector. Unemployment rate has come down faster than any time in several decades. We now are seeing the strongest job growth overall, as well as in manufacturing, since the 1990s. We are producing more energy than ever before. The deficit has been cut by two-thirds. And we're finally starting to see some movement last year in wages going up at a time when families are also enjoying some lower gas prices.

So we're in a position to make sure that 2015 is an even stronger year, and relative to our competitors, we are holding much better cards. The key now is for us to work as a team to make sure that we build on this progress. Obviously, there are disagreements around the table on a whole range of issues, but there are also areas where we can agree, and that's where we're going to be focused.

Just to cite a few examples, I've got a State of the Union next week. One of the things we're going to be talking about is cybersecurity. With the Sony attacks that took place, with the Twitter account that was hacked by Islamist jihadist sympathizers yesterday, it just goes to show how much more work we need to

do, both public and private sector, to strengthen our cybersecurity to make sure that families' bank accounts are safe, to make sure that our public infrastructure is safe. I've talked to both the Speaker as well as Mitch McConnell about this, and I think we agree that this is an area where we can work hard together, get some legislation done, and make sure that we are much more effective in protecting the American people from these kinds of cyber attacks.

I think that there's going to be opportunities for us to work together on trade. There's going to be opportunities for us to work together on simplifying the tax system and making sure everybody is paying their fair share. There are going to be opportunities for us to streamline Government so it's more responsible. And on each of these issues, I'm going to be listening to everybody around this table, and I'm hopeful that in the spirit of cooperation and putting America first, we can be in position where, at the end of this year, we'll be able to look back and say we're that much better off than we were when we started the year.

So I just wanted to thank everybody for being here, and I'm very much looking forward to not just this discussion, but some real collaboration over the course of the next several months. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Marcus A.T. Mariota, quarterback, University of Oregon football team.

Remarks at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center in Arlington, Virginia

January 13, 2015

Good afternoon, everybody. I want to thank Secretary Johnson, Deputy Secretary Mayorkas, and the dedicated public servants of the Department of Homeland Security for welcoming me here today. I've kind of taken over

your workspace. I apologize for that, but just pretend that I'm not here. [Laughter] I want you to keep working. I did ask who dressed up for this event, and apparently, a few were brave enough to admit it.

But in advance of my State of the Union Address next week, I've been rolling out my proposals for keeping our economy on track, keeping it growing, making sure we're creating jobs and opportunity for the American people. And that includes the extraordinary opportunities that exist in our digital economy.

Yesterday I announced new proposals to better protect Americans from identity theft and ensure our privacy, including making sure that our kids are safe from digital marketing and intrusions on their privacy based on what they're doing at school. Tomorrow, in Iowa, I'll talk about how we can give more families and communities faster, cheaper access to the broadband that allows them to successfully compete in this global economy. And on Thursday, the Vice President will be in Norfolk to highlight the need to continue to invest in the education and skills for our cybersecurity professionals. But today I am here at DHS to highlight how we can work with the private sector to better protect American companies against cyber threats.

Shortly after I took office, I declared that cyber threats pose an enormous challenge for our country. It's one of the most serious economic and national security challenges we face as a nation. Foreign Governments, criminals, and hackers probe America's computer networks every single day. We saw that again with the attack at Sony, which actually destroyed data and computer hardware that is going to be very costly for that company to clean up. Just yesterday we saw the hack of a military Twitter account and YouTube channel. No military operations were impacted. So far, it appears that no classified information was released. But the investigation is ongoing, and it's a reminder that cyber threats are an urgent and growing danger.

Moreover, much of our critical infrastructure—our financial systems, power grids, pipelines, health care systems—run on networks connected to the Internet. So this is a matter of public safety and of public health. And most of this infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector. So neither Government nor the private sector can defend the Nation alone.

It's going to have to be a shared mission: Government and industry working hand in hand, as partners.

And that's why I've said that protecting our digital infrastructure is a national security priority and a national economic priority. Over the past 6 years, we've pursued a comprehensive strategy, boosting our defenses in Government, sharing more information with the private sector to help them defend themselves, working with industry through what we call the cybersecurity framework not just to respond to threats and recover from attacks, but to prevent and disrupt them in the first place.

And that's where these good folks come in. We are currently at the National Cybersecurity Communications Integration Center, also known as NCCIC. I just got a tour and a briefing. I want to thank everybody here, not just from DHS, but from across Government and the private sector, because, again, this is a shared responsibility.

This center is one of the critical lines of America's cyber defenses. These men and women work around the clock, 24/7, monitoring threats, issuing warnings, sharing information with the private sector, and keeping Americans safe. So as a nation, we owe them thanks, and as a nation, we are making progress. We're more prepared to defend against cyber attacks. But every day, our adversaries are getting more sophisticated and more determined and more plentiful. So every day, we've got to keep upping our game at the same time. We've got to stay ahead of those who are trying to do us harm.

Now, the problem is that Government and the private sector are still not always working as closely together as we should. Sometimes, it's still too hard for Government to share threat information with companies. Sometimes, it's still too hard for companies to share information about cyber threats with the Government. There are legal issues involved and liability issues. Sometimes, companies are reluctant to reveal their vulnerabilities or admit publicly that they have been hacked. At the same time, the American people have a legitimate interest in making sure that Government

is not potentially abusing information that it's received from the private sector.

So all of us—Government and industry—are going to have to keep doing better. The new legislation and proposals I put forward yesterday will help, especially for a strong, single national standard for notifying Americans when their information has been breached. Today I want to announce some additional steps.

First, we're proposing new cybersecurity legislation to promote the greater information sharing we need between Government and the private sector. This builds and improves upon the legislation that we've put forward in the past. It reflects years of extensive discussions with industry. It includes liability protections for companies that share information on cyber threats. It includes essential safeguards to ensure that Government protects privacy and civil liberties even as we're doing our job of safeguarding America's critical information networks.

I raised this issue again and the need for this legislation with congressional leaders this morning, including Speaker Boehner and Leader McConnell, and we all agree that this is a threat that has to be addressed, and I am confident that we should be able to craft bipartisan legislation soon to put these systems in place. We're going to keep on working with Congress to get this done. And in the meantime, we're going to do everything that we can with our existing authorities to make sure industry gets the information it needs to better defend itself.

Second, we're proposing to update the authorities the law—that law enforcement uses to go after cyber criminals. We want to be able to better prosecute those who are involved in cyber attacks, those who are involved in the sale of cyber weapons like botnets and spyware. We want to ensure that we're able to prosecute insiders who steal corporate secrets or individuals' private information. And we want to expand the authority of courts to shut down botnets and other malware. The bottom line: We want cyber criminals to feel the full force of American justice, because they are doing as much damage, if not more, these days as

folks who are involved in more conventional crime.

Finally, and since this is a challenge that we can only meet together, I'm announcing that next month, we'll convene a White House summit on cybersecurity and consumer protection. It's a White House summit where we're not going to do it at the White House; we're going to go to Stanford University. And it's going to bring everybody together—industry, tech companies, law enforcement, consumer and privacy advocates, law professors who are specialists in the field, as well as students—to make sure that we work through these issues in a public, transparent fashion.

Because they're hard and they're complicated issues. But if we keep on working on them together and focus on concrete and pragmatic steps that we can take to boost our cybersecurity and our privacy, I'm confident that both our privacy will be more secure and our information, our networks, public health, public safety will be more secure. We're going to keep on at this as a Government, but we're also going to be working with the private sector to detect, prevent, defend, deter against attacks, and to recover quickly from any disruptions or damage. And as long as I'm President, protecting America's digital infrastructure is going to remain a top national security priority.

In closing, I want to say one of the areas I'll be working with Congress is to ensure that we don't let any disagreements keep us from fulfilling our most basic responsibilities. Last week's attack in Paris was a painful reminder that we have no greater duty than the security of the American people. And our national security should never be subject to partisan political games. Congress needs to fully fund our Department of Homeland Security, without delay, so that the dedicated public servants working here can operate with the certainty and confidence they need to keep the American people safe. And that's true across the board in the Department of Homeland Security.

So again, I want to thank Jeh and Deputy Secretary Mayorkas and everybody here at

NCCIC and DHS for the great job you are doing. You are helping to keep the Nation safe and secure.

And with that, we're going to get out of here so you can get back to work. Who knows what's

been happening while you've been paying attention to me? [Laughter] All right? Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m.

Statement on the Resignation of Acting Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality Michael J. Boots January 13, 2015

I want to thank Mike Boots for his service to the American people over the past 6 years, including his tenure as one of my top environmental advisers. It is no coincidence that Mike's leadership of the Council on Environmental Quality has coincided with historic national progress on climate change and conservation. His deep policy expertise and his work with mayors, Governors, and other local leaders have guided my actions to strengthen our Nation's infrastructure and address the

threats communities face from climate change. His leadership has helped me fulfill the pledge I made a year ago to protect the pristine and special places Americans care about, including by permanently preserving more than 260 million acres of environmentally and culturally significant lands and waters as national monuments. The country is better off because of Mike's contribution, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Remarks at Cedar Falls Utilities in Cedar Falls, Iowa January 14, 2015

The President. Hello, Cedar Falls!

Audience members. Hello!

Audience member. Welcome!

The President. Thank you. It's good to be back.

Well, first of all, give Marc a big round of applause for the introduction and the great work he's doing. I also want to thank Mayor Jon Crews as well as Jim Krieg and the whole team here at Cedar Falls Utilities for hosting us here today. Give them a big round of applause.

We've got our Commerce Secretary, Penny Pritzker, here, as well as Iowa Congressman Dave Loebsack and Attorney General Tom Miller. [Applause] Yay, Tom! And I was reminded by the president that we have to give a shout-out to a top-25 basketball team that you've got here in town. The president was lobbying me about putting them in my brackets. I said, it's a little early. [Laughter] I've got to kind of see what happens the second half of the season.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. [Laughter] The Panthers are putting together a heck of a season again. And I think most folks learned a few years ago that when March rolls around, you do not bet against UNI.

Now, it's great to be back. I've seen a lot of good friends. Unfortunately, they're not giving me time to grab a beer down at the Pump Haus this trip, although I understand the mayor said he'd brought a Bud Light with me—or for me. The mayor brought a Bud Light, and he's trying to sneak it around Secret Service. [Laughter] But obviously, it's wonderful coming back to Iowa, even during winter, in fact, especially in the cold. These folks in Washington can't handle the cold. We know how to handle cold in the Midwest.

And here in Iowa, on a cold January caucus night about 7 years ago, we talked about change and said that it was time for us to move this country in a new direction. And obviously,