

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF LABOR
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
ADMINISTRATOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

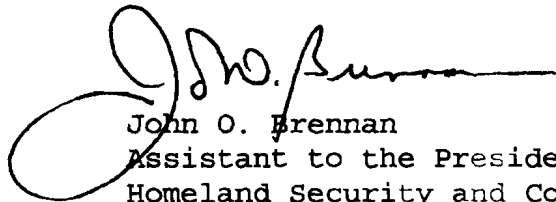
SUBJECT: Strengthening Information Sharing and Access

Achieving effective information sharing and access throughout the government is a top priority of the Obama administration. This priority extends beyond terrorism-related issues, to the sharing of information more broadly to enhance the national security of the United States and the safety of the American people. Significant progress has been made in recent years. Concerted steps have been taken to facilitate information sharing and access across federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector communities, while protecting privacy and civil liberties. But there is more work to be done.

To advance the priority to make trusted and resilient information sharing and access a reality, we have established in the Executive Office of the President the position of a Senior Director for Information Sharing Policy and have selected Mike Resnick to serve in this role. In addition, we have initiated a comprehensive review of information sharing, to include the current status of activities aimed at establishing the

Information Sharing Environment (ISE), as called for by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, as amended. Mike Resnick is leading this effort, supported by Office of Management and Budget staff. He is also charged with leading an interagency policy process to identify information sharing and access priorities going forward. To streamline and strengthen this effort, the Information Sharing Council (ISC) will be integrated into the Information Sharing and Access Policy Interagency Policy Committee (IPC), such that the important work of the ISC will move forward under the auspices of the Executive Office of the President. And while work remains to implement an information sharing environment that addresses more fully the needs of federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector stakeholders, progress made to date provides a strong foundation. There also are interesting possibilities, such as exploring ways to coordinate more closely, cybersecurity and information sharing and access policies and priorities going forward.

President Obama's highest priority is to keep the American people safe. Effective and efficient information sharing and access are essential to enhancing the national security of the United States and the safety of the American people. As we move forward together on this important issue, it will be important that we make tangible, meaningful progress on the development of an effective information sharing environment. Your dedicated commitment and senior-level attention to this issue will be critical to our mutual success going forward.



John O. Brennan
Assistant to the President for
Homeland Security and Counterterrorism