

NEWS RELEASE



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DTI SECRETARY THOMAS JARRETT TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY ISSUES FACING THE STATES

Dover – Secretary of Technology and Information, Thomas Jarrett, appeared before Congress on Tuesday July 19th to provide an update on the status of cybersecurity in the State of Delaware, as well as in other states across the nation. The hearing was entitled "Securing Cyberspace: Efforts to Protect National Information Infrastructures Continue to Face Challenges

Secretary Jarrett was asked to speak before the US Senate's Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information and International Security, by Delaware Senator Tom Carper. The Subcommittee is Chaired by Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Senator Carper is the Ranking Minority member.

Secretary Jarrett testified in two capacities, one as Delaware's CIO, and secondly as the current President of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers. NASCIO represents state chief information officers and information resource executives and managers from the 50 states, six U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. He emphasized that Delaware's information technology system is critical to the well-being of our state as a whole, not just the business of the state, but also its economy.

Helping to illustrate this point, Secretary Jarrett informed committee members that the Department of Technology and Information (DTI) has software that permits DTI to track network events on a daily basis and DTI fends off nearly 3000 daily attempts of outsiders to enter the state's network. He also presented similar information from other states noting that cybersecurity is the primary concern of Chief Information Officers nationwide.

Jarrett informed the subcommittee that the Department of Homeland Security has not included cybersecurity in its existing homeland security planning and preparedness for the states. He encouraged the subcommittee to help NASCIO to close this strategic gap. Secretary Jarrett concluded his testimony by stating that "all critical infrastructure is the same by its very nature, critical, whether it is a roadway system or an information network. Infrastructure is about moving people and information, and a state's information network infrastructure is equally as important as its highways, electric power grid or mass transit system."

Secretary Jarrett's testimony is available online at <http://dti.delaware.gov/pdfs/TomJarrettSecuringCyberspace.pdf>, or please call 302-739-9654 if you would like to receive it via fax.