



Dear Owners and Operators of the Transportation Systems Sector,

We write to express our grave concerns about the growing threat posed by malicious cyber actors and to urge you to take steps today to protect yourself from a ransomware attack before you become a victim. As you no doubt are aware, malicious hackers have targeted critical infrastructure, including hospitals, pipelines, food processing facilities, and water utilities, as well as police departments, community banks, and schools.

These attacks directly impact Americans' daily lives, our economy, and the security of our Nation. Roughly \$350 million in ransom was paid to malicious cyber actors in 2020, a more than 300% increase from the previous year. There have already been multiple notable ransomware attacks in 2021. Importantly, the majority of ransomware victims are small businesses for whom an attack is an existential threat.

It is critical that you have the information you need to protect yourself. Earlier this month, the United States Government launched [StopRansomware.gov](https://www.stopransomware.gov), which provides a one-stop shop with best practices from across the federal government to protect against ransomware, clear guidance on how to report attacks, and the latest ransomware-related alerts from participating agencies. It is the first such central hub by the federal government and includes resources and content from the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Justice's FBI, the Department of Commerce's NIST, and the Departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services.

Tackling this challenge requires collaboration across every level of government, the private sector, and our communities. Many organizations have yet to adequately protect their networks. Like many cyber-attacks, ransomware exploits the weakest link. [StopRansomware.gov](https://www.stopransomware.gov) provides basic information that can help you take simple steps to protect your networks against ransomware and other malicious cyber activity. We encourage you to visit this website and take advantage of the tips and resources that can, collectively, better protect your organization and our Nation from cyber threats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Buttigieg".

Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
Department of Transportation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alejandro N. Mayorkas".

Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security