

## FESAC STATEMENT ON CISA

December 11, 2015

The Federal Economics Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC) has grave concerns about the Cyber Information Sharing Act. We regard the independence and integrity of the statistical agencies as being of paramount importance. This includes the ability of the statistical agencies to protect the privacy and confidentiality of U.S. households and businesses. These data are collected and used for statistical purposes only. In this information age, the statistics produced by the U.S. statistical agencies are increasingly vital for public and private decision makers. Our concern arises from our understanding the act would enable the staff of the Department of Homeland Security to access the private data on American households and businesses housed at the U.S Statistical Agencies. Access to these private data by the Department of Homeland Security, either directly or through special tabulations, risks creating a very adverse public perception. This would permanently jeopardize the ability to collect accurate and representative information, and thus jeopardize the ability of Americans to make sound business and public-policy decisions. We recommend that this act not abrogate current legal protections for the privacy and confidentiality of the data of the U.S. statistical agencies.