June 14, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 205150

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 205150

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We are writing to urge you in the strongest possible terms to ensure that S. 190/H.R. 511, the Power and Security Systems (PASS) Act is considered and passed in the Senate as soon as possible. We understand a unanimous consent request has been initiated.

External power supplies (EPS) used in security and life safety systems are currently exempt from the U.S. Department of Energy’s EPS energy efficiency standards for standby or “no-load” mode (i.e. when a phone charger is plugged into the wall but disconnected from the device). Such systems are always on and in “active” mode, to detect signals from sensors and initiate alarm communications, and are not designed to operate in a standby mode.

Unless extended, this statutory exemption expires for EPS manufactured after July 1, 2017 – in just 17 days, forcing manufacturers to redesign the products to meet a standard that would never be used or needed. This could double or even triple the cost of the equipment, while yielding no energy savings since installed systems operate only in active mode. And because equipment meeting this standard does not yet exist, individuals and businesses in need of security and life safety equipment might be unable to obtain the devices they need to protect their families, homes and businesses.

The Power and Security Systems (PASS) Act extends the security/life safety exemption for as long as the current EPS efficiency standard remains in effect, and provides the Department of Energy with the regulatory authority to further extend the exemption, if needed, in the future. The House bill, H.R. 511, passed by voice vote on January 23, 2017.

Together, our organizations represent hundreds of manufacturers and integrators of security and life safety products. The PASS Act language was developed in partnership with the industry and energy efficiency organizations, and will provide much-needed regulatory relief to our members who employ 400,000 Americans in the security industry. It also ultimately benefits the millions of American consumers that depend on security and life safety systems.

Please act quickly to ensure the PASS Act is considered in the U.S. Senate as soon as possible before this important exemption expires July 1. We stand ready to answer any questions you or your staff may have. Thank you for your consideration and all that you do for our great country.

Sincerely,

Don Erickson        Kevin Cosgriff      Merlin Guilbeau
CEO         President and CEO     Executive Director/CEO
Security Industry Association      National Electrical Manufacturers Association   Electronic Security Association