

The Honorable Jen Easterly
Director
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
US Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

February 1, 2022

Dear Director Easterly:

As the 2022 mid-term election is fast approaching, I'm writing to alert you to concerns expressed to me by member companies of PRINTING United Alliance regarding supply chain snarls that could hinder election security. While paper availability for election printing and ballot mailing have demanded concern in past cycles, this commodity is not immune from the supply chain headaches plaguing so many industries and products.

The use of individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots is widely accepted as the best manner in which to ensure the public's peace of mind that their votes will be securely cast and accurately counted. Paper ballots are also the best way to ensure proper verification in the case of recounts. These key attributes of paper – security and reliability – have been long-touted by our industry, and, therefore, I believe it appropriate that CISA be forewarned of any potential shortages that may limit the number of ballots produced in 2022.

Ballot and election-related printing represent some of the most complex projects in the graphic communications industry. Accuracy, efficiency and integrity are vital to the process. Specific paper is required both for ballots and for envelopes approved to use in vote by mail states. Anecdotal evidence suggests printing companies barely found enough paper in the marketplace to produce ballots for early state primary elections and are growing increasingly worried that supply will not be ample for the fall work period. Please keep in mind, too, that election printing extends beyond ballots to voter guides, sample ballots, instructional signage, and related material – all essential election infrastructure.

While I realize CISA cannot engage directly in securing private market paper supply, I respectfully ask that the agency highlights this early warning with appropriate officials in the Biden Administration.

Thank you for your attention to this concern. PRINTING United Alliance and its member companies would be pleased to discuss this topic further with CISA, and we welcome you to tour a manufacturing facility specializing in ballot and election-services printing to see first-hand the essential role our industry plays in the electoral process.

Sincerely,



Ford Bowers
CEO