



May 14, 2019

To all financial institution CEOs:

As heads of national financial services trade associations, we are writing with one simple message: **Join Sheltered Harbor.**

Sheltered Harbor was created to protect your customers, your financial institution, and public confidence in the financial system if a catastrophic event like a cyberattack causes critical systems—including backups—to fail.

This is not a sales pitch for a product or service. We have built a not-for-profit, industry-led ecosystem of financial institutions, core processors, national trade associations, alliance partners, and solution providers dedicated to enhancing financial sector stability and resiliency.

The reason for Sheltered Harbor is simple: once improbable threat scenarios are now plausible. In response, traditional business continuity and disaster recovery planning is not enough. The only way to minimize the impact of a devastating disruption is to prepare for it. Implementing the Sheltered Harbor standard prepares institutions to provide customers timely access to balances and funds in such a worst-case scenario.

How does Sheltered Harbor work? Financial institutions back up critical customer account data each night in the Sheltered Harbor standard format, either managing their own secure data vault or using a participating service provider. The data vault is owned and managed by your institution, is unchangeable, and is completely separated from your institution's infrastructure, including all backups. When your institution completes the requirements for data vaulting, you will be awarded Sheltered Harbor certification. This designation and accompanying seal communicate to key audiences, such as customers, industry peers, and regulatory agencies, that your critical customer account data is protected.

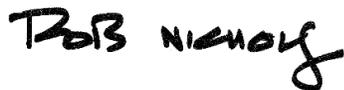
Vaulting customer data each day is, of course, essential if a devastating cyberattack takes place. Restoring the data is equally important. Through resiliency planning guides and an expanding network of assurance and advisory firms, implementing the Sheltered Harbor standard helps your institution prepare the business and technical processes necessary to restore critical systems as quickly as possible. We are also working with core processors and other technology service providers to ensure institutions have ready access to solutions for data vaulting and recovery.

All the below organizations are founding members of this important initiative. Participation is open to financial institutions of all sizes, including banks, credit unions, brokerages, asset managers, industry associations, and core service providers.

For your customers, your institution, and our industry, we urge you to join Sheltered Harbor and set the goal of achieving Sheltered Harbor certification as a top priority within your institution.

To learn more about Sheltered Harbor, please visit shelteredharbor.org.

Respectfully,



Rob Nichols, President & CEO
American Bankers Association



Gregory A. Baer, President & CEO
Bank Policy Institute



Jim Nussle, President & CEO
Credit Union National Association



Kevin Fromer, President & CEO
Financial Services Forum



Steven Silberstein, President & CEO
Financial Services Information
Sharing and Analysis Center



Kenneth Bentsen, Jr, President & CEO
Securities Industry and Financial Markets
Association