October 25, 2019

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA
Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Operations
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mark Meadows (R-NC), Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: HR 3941, the FedRAMP Authorization Act of 2019

Dear Chairman Connolly and Ranking Member Meadows:

We are writing in support of HR 3941, the FedRAMP Authorization Act of 2019. We appreciate your efforts in drafting this legislation and look forward to working with you as it moves forward.

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to reliable and high-performing cloud, Linux, middleware, storage and virtualization technologies. As such, we believe that the government's adoption of cloud computing is critical to fulfilling its vision of a responsive, modern IT infrastructure.

As the federal government's cloud strategy evolves, particularly under the Administration's Cloud Smart strategy, we believe there is an ongoing need for the FedRAMP program to evolve with it. Part of this is a recognition of the reality of hybrid cloud -- a mix of on-premises, private cloud and deployments on a variety of public cloud platforms. The factors that determine that mix will necessarily evolve in the future, so agencies should preserve the flexibility to re-migrate those workloads as new needs or challenges emerge. An invigorated and effective FedRAMP program is necessary to support this evolving strategy.
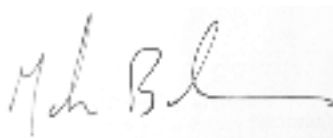
To that end, we were pleased to see legislative provisions aimed at creating operational efficiencies within the FedRAMP PMO, as well as those encouraging the re-use of provisional authorizations across government helping to realize the original vision of "do once, use many times."

Furthermore, we were pleased to see the increased focus on automation, better defining the roles and responsibilities of the various FedRAMP-interested entities, and providing an authorization of $25m annually.

These provisions, combined with a statutory underpinning for the program as provided in the bill, ensure the program can change to meet an evolving federal cloud marketplace.

Thank you again for your efforts in support of FedRAMP and please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or would like further information on how Red Hat leverages FedRAMP.

Sincerely,

Mark Bohannon
Vice President, Global Public Policy