What is the Biden administration doing to protect infrastructure from cyberattacks?

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WASHINGTON (SBG) - The Colonial Pipeline hack exposed weaknesses in the nation's cybersecurity, and some critics say the government isn't doing enough to protect the nation's infrastructure. The White House is pushing its $2 trillion infrastructure plan to upgrade roads, ports, and schools, but some Republicans say what is missing from the bill is the money to protect infrastructure from cyber attacks.

"I do not think that any administration has done nearly enough to recognize the existential threat that our vulnerabilities are, the electrical grid, the fuel grid, and what they really represent to Americans. We need to get serious about this when we are talking about spending trillions of dollars on infrastructure, we ought to focus on hardening our grids," said Senator Ron Johnson on The National Desk last week.

What is the president's plan to make our infrastructure more resilient?

"The president's American Jobs Plan does have billions of dollars in resources specifically around resilience and also even in the things that are in the category of transit there's going to be an expectation when grants go out that cybersecurity has been addressed in the plan," said Pete Buttigieg to The National Desk's Ahtra Elnashar.

Feeling the pressure to do more, the Biden administration dropped an executive order this month to strengthen federal cybersecurity standards, including more rigorous security requirements for software providers that contract with the federal government.

"When you start connecting everyone to the grid, you have solar panels on houses and they're connected to the grid, you increase your level of vulnerability. Every day that we move forward with IT technology, we become more and more vulnerable, and we have not gotten better at defending against cyber threats," said Sen. Johnson.

But the federal government owns very little of American infrastructure. According to the CATO Institute, state and local governments and the private sector own 97% of the nation's non-defense infrastructure, which means the federal government may run into roadblocks - requiring private companies themselves to implement cybersecurity.