

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

December 21, 2011

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
1101 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 930  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Mr. Rod Beckstrom  
President and CEO  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330  
Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Dear Dr. Crocker and Mr. Beckstrom:

Last week, the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing to examine the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) pending expansion of the generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) program. Although we believe expanding gTLDs is a worthy goal that may lead to increased competition on the Internet, we are very concerned that there is significant uncertainty in this process for businesses, non-profit organizations, and consumers. To that end, we urge you to delay the planned January 12, 2012, date for the acceptance of applications for new gTLDs.

At the December 18, 2011, hearing, ICANN's Senior Vice President Kurt Pritz detailed the process by which your organization developed the gTLD expansion program as well as additional protections that have been put in place to protect businesses and consumers. However, many stakeholders are not convinced that ICANN's process has resulted in an acceptable level of protection. A wide coalition of interested groups, including top U.S. and multinational companies and large non-profit organizations, support the call for a delay. Both at our hearing and in the days since, the Council of Better Business Bureaus, the National Restaurant Association, Goodwill Industries, the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the Coalition Against Domain Name Abuse, and the Coalition for Responsible Internet Domain Oversight – collectively representing hundreds of brands and charities – have all expressed concerns with gTLD expansion and suggested changes that could alleviate those concerns.

On December 16, 2011, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chairman and Commissioners sent a letter to ICANN highlighting “the potential for significant consumer harm resulting from the unprecedented increase in new gTLDs” and asked ICANN to “mitigate the risk of serious consumer injury and to improve the accuracy of Whois data” before approving any new gTLD applications.

Given these widespread concerns, a short delay will allow interested parties to work with ICANN and offer changes to alleviate many of them, specifically concerns over law enforcement, cost and transparency that were discussed in recent Congressional hearings.

We look forward to hearing from you on this time sensitive matter.

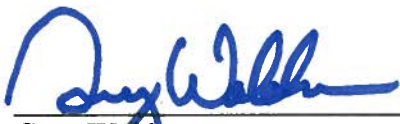
Sincerely,



Fred Upton  
Chairman



Sue Myrick  
Vice Chairman




Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology



Anna G. Eshoo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology



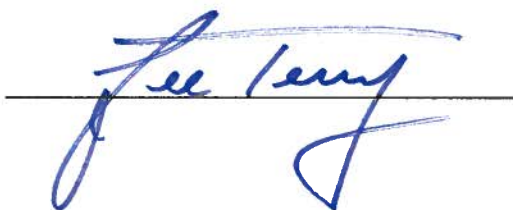
Cliff Stearns  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight  
and Investigations



John Shimkus  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment  
and the Economy



Mary Bono Mack  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce,  
Manufacturing, and Trade



Charles F. Bass

E. Bonner

Edward J. Markey

R. M. Chitt

Steve Jobs

Brett Guthrie

Doris O. Matsui

Mike Roy

Robert J....

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

Jamie Hedlund, Vice President of Government Affairs - Americas  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

SIGNATORIES

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Mary Bono Mack  
Charles Bass  
Edward Markey  
Steve Scalise  
Doris Matsui  
Robert Latta

Sue Myrick  
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Brett Guthrie  
Mike Rogers (MI)