

September 13, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid:

On October 1st, 2016, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) plans to end its stewardship of the Internet's addressing system, known as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). This authority would then shift to the global Internet community, through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a private-sector led, multi-stakeholder organization to coordinate Internet addresses.

In March 2014, the U.S. Department of Commerce asked ICANN to convene the global community of Internet stakeholders to produce a transition plan that meets strict criteria. The undersigned companies and trade associations, representing thousands of companies across the country, are proud and active members of the Internet community. We have worked with representatives from civil society, government, and the technical community to craft a proposal that enables the U.S. Government to seamlessly transfer stewardship of the Internet's addressing system to its global stakeholders.

The final proposal includes significant and concrete measures to enhance ICANN's accountability to its global community. We believe that this important proposal will assure the continuing security, stability and resiliency of this system. Furthermore, crucial safeguards are in place to protect human rights, including the freedom of speech. We are confident that the proposal goes above and beyond the criteria set out by the Commerce Department two years ago to protect Americans.

The Internet's addressing system helps keep the Internet global, scalable and interoperable. It is imperative that Congress does not take action to delay the October 1st transition date. The Internet is defined by its inclusivity and openness. Those critical characteristics are reflected in the work that – over the course of many months of open, transparent and inclusive discussion – went into the drafting of this transition proposal, which is ready to be executed.

A global, interoperable and stable Internet is essential for our economic and national security, and we remain committed to completing the nearly twenty year transition to the multi-stakeholder model that will best serve U.S. interests.

Sincerely,

ACT | The App Association
American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)
Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
The Domain Name Association (TheDNA)
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Internet Association
Internet Infrastructure Coalition (i2coalition)
NetChoice
Packet Clearing House
Afilias PLC
Amazon
Cloudflare
cPanel, Inc.
Donuts Inc.
Dropsuite
Dyn
Endurance
Facebook
Google
GoDaddy
Handy Networks
OnApp
Public Interest Registry
SingleHop
Tucows, Inc.
Twitter
Yahoo

CC:

Chairman Grassley
Ranking Member Leahy
Chairman Thune
Ranking Member Nelson
Chairman Goodlatte
Ranking Member Conyers
Chairman Upton
Ranking Member Pallone