

September 12, 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 Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Reid, Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the undersigned associations and their members, we write in support of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition, which will be completed when the contract between Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and U.S. Department of Commerce expires on September 30, 2016.

Upon its expiration the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS) will be finally and fully privatized. The IANA transition supports and enhances a multi-stakeholder model, maintaining the security, stability, and resiliency of the internet DNS, while meeting the needs and expectations of global customers and partners.

Right now, a handful of Members of Congress are trying to delay or block this transition. The primary concern is that foreign governments will want to bring the internet under their control. We respectfully disagree with this position, and despite the rhetoric otherwise, continued U.S. government oversight of ICANN creates a significant risk of internet fragmentation and government overreach.

We believe that the transition will significantly improve accountability, as well as long term sustainability, by making ICANN responsible to technologists, businesses, civil society, and all users who depend on the internet for economic growth and social innovation. The transition also ensures that the internet remains an open platform, uncontrolled by any single entity. Those who are against the transition argue that the government can better protect the public interest than the multi-stakeholder model can. But if the U.S. government insists on maintaining its role, other governments will insist on having a role as well, unraveling the multi-stakeholder model and fragmenting the internet. Governments will manage their own national or regional DNS. This is a high cost for holding on to the U.S. government's purely administrative role. It won't safeguard freedom of expression on the internet because neither the DNS nor the U.S. government's limited role provide any authority over content on the internet.

Innovators have lined up to support the transition because we understand the unique role that the internet plays in our own success, and also how it powers global trade and commerce. If members of Congress are able to block or delay the transition, we fear U.S. businesses will shoulder lasting negative

effects on their business operations, unnecessarily impacting global trade and investment which depends on a unified, global internet.

The internet is the greatest platform for global commerce that the world has ever known, and must be protected. This is why the transition is so critically important to small businesses like ours.

We now respectfully request your help to ensure that the continuing resolution does not contain any language that would delay or block the IANA transition.

Sincerely,

ACT | The App Association

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cc: Hon. John Thune, Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Hon. Bill Nelson, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Hon. Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Hon. Barbara Mikulski, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations
Hon. Richard Shelby, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader, US House of Representatives
Hon. Harold Rogers, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations
Hon. Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

Hon. John Culberson, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Hon. Mike Honda, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Hon. Fred Upton, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Frank Pallone, Jr., Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Greg Walden, Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Hon. Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Hon. Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce

Hon. Larry Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration