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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

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September 29, 2006

Mr. John M.R. Kneuer  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Room 4898  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Kneuer:

Thank you for taking the time to testify at last week's subcommittee hearing on "Internet Governance: The Future of ICANN". We agree with you that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) continues to play an important role for preserving the security and stability of the internet domain name system.

We believe that in order for ICANN to be a lasting and sustainable institution, ICANN needs to improve on issues of accountability and transparency. It is important that the concerns of all interested parties, including the Internet community, are considered before any decisions are made.

As the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Commerce (DOC) and ICANN expires this month, we request that DOC extend the MOU for no more than three years, with the understanding that ICANN demonstrates measurable progress on the issues of accountability and transparency.

We are very concerned regarding the new .COM settlement agreement between ICANN and VeriSign and ask that you delay approval of the settlement agreement until the Committee has had the opportunity to thoroughly understand and review the relevant issues regarding .COM, including the presumptive renewal provision and automatic price increases. Since the current ICANN .COM contract does not expire until November 10, 2007, there is adequate time for the Committee and DOC to provide a transparent process for all interested parties.

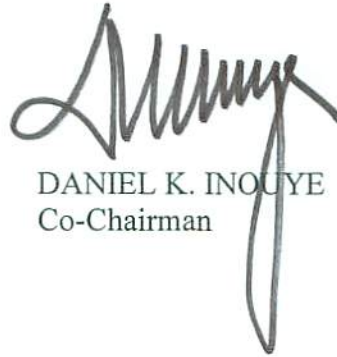
As you know, the Committee is planning further review of the ICANN related issues. This will provide the Committee opportunity to examine and understand these complicated, but important issues. It is necessary to proceed carefully on this issue. We look forward to your participation to ensure that accountability and transparency remains at the forefront of ICANN.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation on this very important issue. We would like a response by October 6, 2006.


Sincerely,



TED STEVENS  
Chairman



DANIEL K. INOUE  
Co-Chairman



GORDON H. SMITH  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Trade, Tourism,  
and Economic Development



BYRON L. DORGAN  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Trade, Tourism,  
and Economic Development