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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

January 13, 2016

Fadi Chehadé  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536

Mr. Chehadé,

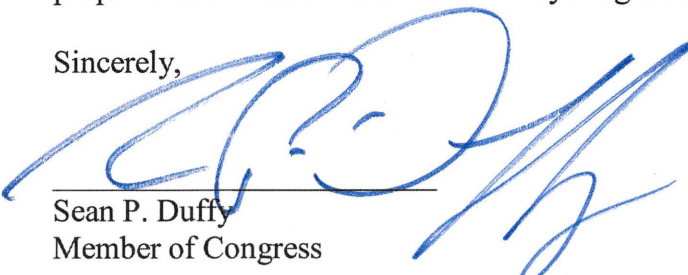
I listened to your December 21, 2015 interview on National Public Radio with great concern over your dedication to weakening the Internet. The interview, entitled "U.S. Prepares To Relinquish Oversight Of Internet To International Body," aired just three days after Congress presented legislation to President Obama which expressly prohibits funds from being used by the U.S. Government to relinquishing its stewardship of the Internet, including its responsibility with respect to Internet domain name system functions and the authoritative root zone file and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions.

During your interview, you said that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is "on track" to deliver a "final proposal to the U.S. government in January of 2016" for the transfer to the international community of these fundamental responsibilities. Perhaps you were unaware of the funding limitation contained in government spending bills for the past two fiscal years and the widespread opposition in Congress to your efforts.

As Americans, we value our Constitutional right of Freedom of Speech and have promoted this value throughout the world. The U.S. is best positioned to maintain and protect a free and open Internet, through its stewardship of these critical functions, as it has done for decades. If the U.S. turns over this responsibility to the international community, there is no turning back.

Therefore I urge you to abandon your plans to weaken the Internet for users in the United States and around the world. The Commerce Department has no money to consider your proposal and I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that it never does.

Sincerely,

  
Sean P. Duffy  
Member of Congress

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