



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

JAN 2 2018

The Honorable Brian Schatz
United States Senate
Hart Building
Suite SH-722
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schatz:

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 2017. I appreciate your kind words as I begin my tenure as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Assistant Secretary of Commerce. Having assumed this position after nearly 7 years on Capitol Hill, I appreciate the importance of keeping in close and frequent contact with the Congress on the many important responsibilities for which NTIA is charged, including Internet governance. Our shared goal of ensuring the success of global multistakeholder approaches to Internet governance remains critical as authoritarian regimes continue to push for government dominance over the Internet through multilateral institutions as a way to oppress their people and control the flow of information.

Recognizing the value of multistakeholder governance as a bulwark against government control of the Internet, Congress passed a concurrent resolution in 2012 expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. government should work to preserve and advance the multistakeholder model of Internet governance. Rest assured that under my leadership, NTIA supports the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and is committed to advancing U.S. interests, ensuring the stability of Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions and the root zone, and promoting U.S. ideals on the Internet.

In support of this commitment, NTIA will be a strong advocate for U.S. interests within the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in the existing post-transition IANA phase. NTIA will also monitor the Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) and take action as necessary to ensure the security and stability of the DNS root.¹ In addition, NTIA will continue to fight for an Internet that is open, interoperable, and governed globally by all of its stakeholders in the many other venues where such discussions are held. At current funding levels, NTIA will work hard to meet this task, but as other countries develop their own visions for how the Internet should be governed, and policies to support those visions, NTIA is called upon to be present and a vocal in more venues, more frequently. Consequently, additional resources for retaining and maintaining expertise and travel would help ensure the United States remains a leader in these ever growing global discussions.

¹ PTI, formerly referred to as the "Post Transition IANA," is an affiliate of ICANN now responsible for operating the IANA functions.

One way the United States remains effective in discussions and negotiations related to Internet governance is through the monthly NTIA-convened interagency meeting to coordinate Domain Name System (DNS) policy issues, including ICANN. Through these meetings, NTIA fosters a whole-of-government approach to provide consistency of message and strategy. The monthly interagency meeting is attended by representatives of the U.S. Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, State, and Treasury, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Federal Trade Commission, General Services Administration, National Economic Council, National Institute of Standards and Technology, National Security Council, Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Additionally, NTIA meets with non-governmental stakeholders on a regular basis to better understand their priorities and concerns so that they can be factored into U.S. Government positions.

Proactively developing proposals and building coalitions is another way to ensure U.S. effectiveness as it relates to the regular global schedule of Internet governance negotiations. This includes at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) where authoritarian regimes routinely attempt to regulate the Internet and restrict Internet freedom. As such, NTIA is a leading member of interagency preparations for ITU meetings, and the upcoming 2018 treaty making Plenipotentiary conference is no exception. Working with the State Department and other interagency partners, NTIA is involved in the development of a series of modernization proposals to bring the ITU into the 21st century. In addition, NTIA is actively supporting the candidacy of an American, former NTIA official Mrs. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, to be the Director of the ITU Telecommunications Development Bureau, as a way to shape the institution's agenda and management. As the majority of the ITU's 193 government members are developing or least developed economies, this makes the work of the Development Sector the place where the base of the institution can be most directly influenced and is where the countries that have conflicting views to the United States focus their energy.

In closing, our team would be happy to provide your office monthly briefings on the status of the multistakeholder process discussions and outcomes. I hope the above answers your questions. Please feel free to contact my Director of Congressional Affairs, Jim Wasilewski, at (202) 4821830 if you have any further questions, or require any clarifications on NTIA's approach to Internet governance.

Sincerely,



David J. Redl