

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2016

The Honorable Mike DeWine
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Attorney General DeWine:

Since the inception of the Internet, the U.S. Government has provided key oversight of the technical functions including that of the internet Domain Name System (DNS). The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has contracted with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit organization established in 1998, to manage the authoritative root zone file – the public address book for the top level of the Domain Name System (DNS) – and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, which tie together the entire DNS. These functions represent the backbone of the networks of network that make up what we know as the Internet.

NTIA has exercised both contractual oversight and control regarding the IANA and DNS functions, which has given the U.S. Government a fundamental role as a steward of the Internet. Unfortunately, this contractual relationship was allowed to lapse at midnight on September 30, 2016 – despite Congress specifically ordering NTIA to not relinquish responsibility – ceding total control of the technical heart of the Internet to ICANN with no accountability backstop.¹

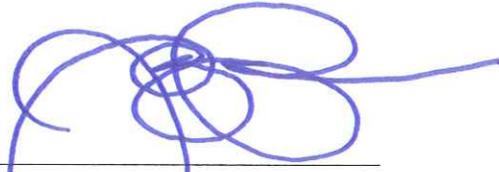
We are deeply troubled by this transition and by the manner in which it has been carried out. Even if such a transfer were to be completed, it should have been done in conjunction with Congress rather than unilaterally during the waning days of a Presidential Administration. The preservation of the Internet as a global public forum is far too important to be put at risk for the sake of political expedience.

Given the gravity of this issue, we ask that you analyze the ramifications of this transition and consider any appropriate action on behalf of our constituents and all Ohioans.

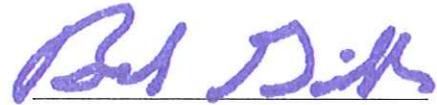
Thank you very much for your consideration and your service to our great state.

Sincerely,

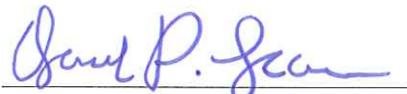
¹ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-113, § 2, 129 Stat. 2332 (2015).



JIM RENACCI
Member of Congress



BOB GIBBS
Member of Congress



DAVID JOYCE
Member of Congress



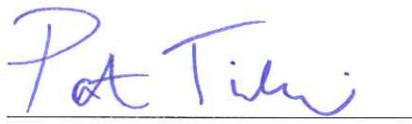
STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress



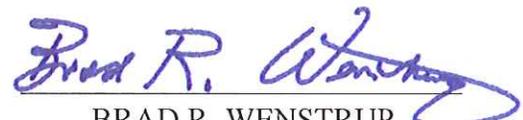
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WARREN DAVIDSON
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PATRICK J. TIBERI
Member of Congress



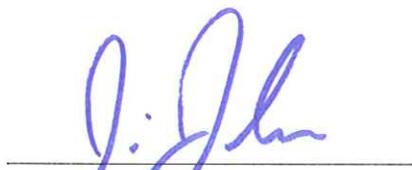
BRAD R. WENSTRUP
Member of Congress



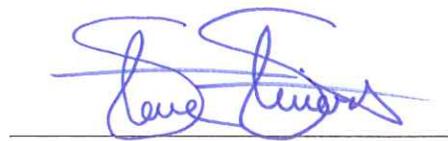
BILL JOHNSON
Member of Congress



BOB LATTA
Member of Congress



JIM JORDAN
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STEVE STIVERS
Member of Congress