



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

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

SEP 21 2011

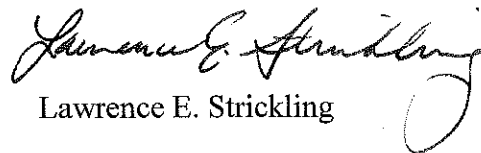
Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your September 14, 2011, letter to Acting Secretary Blank and me, highlighting your concerns with regard to the expiration of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions contract. Let me assure you that I share your views that any party or organization contracted to serve as the IANA functions operator must have a clear and enforced ethics and conflict of interest policy. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is actively exploring how best to meet this requirement in the next IANA contract.

Further, I agree that the IANA functions contractor should also maintain the highest level of transparency and accountability. To encourage transparency and accountability with regard to the requirements, expectations, and role of the IANA functions contractor, NTIA initiated a global public input process through a Notice of Inquiry on February 25, 2011 and Further Notice of Inquiry on June 14, 2011. In the June notice, NTIA sought comment on the draft statement of work to be included in the contract. In response to these two public notices, NTIA received 136 comments from a range of domestic and international stakeholders including governments, private sector entities, and individuals who also noted the need for increase transparency and accountability. This public comment process represented the first comprehensive review of the IANA functions contract since the award of the initial contract in 2000.

NTIA recognizes the vital role that the Internet DNS plays in the daily life of Americans and is dedicated to ensuring its continued growth, stability, and security. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me or James Wasilewski, NTIA's Director of Congressional Affairs, at 202-482-1551.

Sincerely,


Lawrence E. Strickling