



April 25, 2012

The Honorable Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I wanted to bring to your attention a letter ANA sent today to Rod Beckstrom, President & CEO of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The letter concerns the apparent system vulnerability that has prompted ICANN to take its Top Level Domain Application System (TAS) offline. The marketing and Internet communities are concerned about ICANN's vulnerability which occurred just weeks after ICANN opened its Top Level Domain expansion program. Specifically, this system issue appears to have allowed some users to view the filenames and user names of other users, and might have even revealed the domain names for which applications have been submitted. This incident could indicate that ICANN might be rushing to meet artificial deadlines of its own creation, resulting in inevitable system errors.

In accordance with the Affirmation of Commitments between ICANN and the Department of Commerce, ICANN has the responsibility to ensure transparency of its actions. Consistent with that obligation, our letter calls on ICANN to: (1) reveal the causes of the system vulnerability and (2) indicate the steps that will be taken to respond to this issue and lessen the risk of future malfunctions.

ANA has called on ICANN to commission immediately an independent review of this incident, by neutral outside IT experts, and suggest steps to avoid future system malfunctions. We urge the Department of Commerce to use all efforts possible in furtherance of the Affirmation of Commitments and its oversight of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) contract to ensure that there is a thorough review and public accounting, as soon as possible.

Additionally, we remain concerned that there has been no response from ICANN with respect to the need for defensive registrations. For example, we have not yet heard from ICANN concerning our "Do Not Sell" proposal. It is our belief that some of the challenges ICANN is encountering with the TLD application process – apart from the

security vulnerability – such as dealing with an enormous number of applications and the batching issue, could be alleviated by our proposal. Our members also are concerned about what will happen with second level domains once new TLDs are operational. We hope that the Department of Commerce will encourage ICANN to consider our “Do Not Sell” proposal or some similar approach.

We eagerly await a response from ICANN. If you have any questions regarding our letter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Liodice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Robert D. Liodice
President & CEO