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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Att:

The Honorable Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Rockefeller,

We are following up on the discussions which took place during the 8 December 2011 hearing of the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation about ICANN's expansion of generic Top Level Domains.

As current chairs of ICANN's At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO), we found Ms. Esther Dyson's description of the ALAC circa 2003 extremely out-of-date. Her testimony depicted the ALAC prior to the establishment of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) which are designed to provide a structured input first to the ALAC and then to ICANN from Internet end-users around the world. However, we fully support her overall message for the public to pay attention to the workings of ICANN, and that ICANN's door is open.

Today, the ALAC is able to comment on any aspect of the new gTLD program, which it has on several occasions, as well as any other program or process at ICANN. It carries much more "weight" within ICANN's multi-stakeholder, bottom-up model, than it had in the past, thanks to the hard, relentless work of many end-user volunteers who are fighting in the "trenches" to bring the public interest to the ICANN table. We have nearly 140 At-Large Structures (acronym ALS – any formal commercial or non commercial organization having established a process to collect member input at a country level, whether a local non-profit computer club, or a charity bringing computing to the disadvantaged) worldwide and are increasing our membership on a monthly basis.

We believe it is the duty of ICANN, and of the ALAC, to impress upon legislators and the executive branch in all countries that the touchstone of future Internet development is, and should remain, in the public interest. In parallel, we wish to draw the attention of legislators in the United States to the fact that, because their conclusions and choices regarding the Internet have the potential to affect Internet end-users elsewhere, United States' initiatives and laws should seek to be compatible with the public interest internationally.

Active At-Large members cannot purport to "represent" the 2.1 billion global Internet users, but they can try to act in what they honestly believe is in the best interests of the Internet's end users. Do we have enough

members? Probably not -- our aim is to have at least one At-Large Structure (ALS) in every country around the world. We need more volunteers. We need more input from global Internet end-users.

The vehicle for this input is here. It is already used and has produced dozens of statements every year, which you and your honorable colleagues can consult on: <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence>

However, this vehicle needs to be more advertised. We are doing our part to raise awareness of ALAC and the issues of interest to global Internet end-users.

We ask that you share the information of this vehicle as outlined above with your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

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