



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JEFFREY W. BULLOCK
SECRETARY OF STATE

August 14, 2018

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
Attn: Board of Directors
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90090-2536, USA

RE: Awarding of Corporate gTLD Name Extensions

Dear Members of the Board:

As Delaware Secretary of State, I administer the State's registry of business entities and am responsible for safeguarding the integrity of Delaware's legal entity registration system. More than 1.3 million legal entities such as corporations and limited liability companies (LLCs) are organized in the United States under the laws of the State of Delaware.

The State of Delaware is the legal domicile of more than two thirds of Fortune 500 companies, more than half of all publicly traded U.S. companies, and 80 percent of new initial public offerings in the United States. Delaware is the legal home to many of the nation's largest private companies and hundreds of thousands of American subsidiaries and affiliates of major companies around the world.

Over the course of my nearly 10 years as Secretary of State and chief guardian of Delaware's business franchise, I have repeatedly implored ICANN staff, administration and your Board to proceed with extreme caution and all due deliberation with respect to the approval and awarding of generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) name extensions which are defined under the laws and regulations of U.S. jurisdictional registries as "company endings." Such name extensions that meet the definition of "company endings" include, but are not limited to, .INC, .CORP, .LLP, .LTD, .COMPANY and .LLC.

In my efforts to impart to ICANN the seriousness of my concerns and the gravity of the consequences for American business interests and state sovereignty, I was joined by a diverse group of federal and state officials in the United States who made similar pleas for the attention and awareness of ICANN with respect to this issue. The compendium of our commentary over the last decade can speak for itself; I would direct you to review it thoroughly if you wish to be reacquainted with our positions, which have not changed.

To summarize once again, the granting of such name extensions creates a number of serious public policy issues and concerns. The use and proliferation of these name extensions will widen the lanes for potential fraud and abuse, undermine the trustworthiness of our business entity registration systems, and abet the work of unscrupulous actors to take advantage of ordinary citizens the world over. It is my

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unwavering belief that these gTLDs should not be awarded without appropriate controls that include the involvement of entity registries in the verification process. Last month, I joined my colleagues across the country in approving a resolution through the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) that reaffirmed our shared stance on this subject.

The path that ICANN has chosen to pursue flies in the face of the efforts of global policymakers to attempt to move toward greater transparency and public accountability for registered legal entities. Time and again, ICANN has revealed an unwillingness to consider the arguments my colleagues and I have presented, opting instead to stand on bureaucratic and procedural grounds in the pursuit of an outcome that we have no choice but to conclude was predetermined.

At this late juncture I want to ensure that ICANN will implement a full measure of restrictions, verification procedures and enforcement stipulations with respect to name extensions such as .INC, .LLC and .CORP. Use your leadership authority to direct ICANN to work directly with the appropriate federal and state agencies, including Secretaries of State, in protecting businesses and consumers in the United States and across the globe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JWB", written in a cursive, stylized font.

Jeffrey W. Bullock
Secretary of State
State of Delaware

JWB/dcd

cc: Kristopher Knight, Deputy Secretary of State and Director, Delaware Division of Corporations
Leslie Reynolds, Executive Director, National Association of Secretaries of State