



REC'D AUG 29 2013

August 29, 2013

Mr. Steve Crocker  
Chairman,  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)  
12025 Waterfront Drive; Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536  
Fax: 310 823 8649

Dear Mr. Crocker,

The Long Island Wine Council would like to contribute its members' views to the debate launched by the ICANN Board regarding the expansion of a number of generic top-level domains (gTLDs).

As a small regional trade association representing 48 "boutique" wine producers in the State of New York, we fully agree with many of the concerns expressed in Senator Rockefeller's letter to you of June 26, 2013. Our association and its small business members have neither the staff nor the financial resources to effectively police fraudulent or misleading domain registrations, or to undertake expensive defensive registrations. Indeed, our region has already experienced a cybersquatting situation that unquestionably led to confusion among consumers seeking information about Long Island wines.

For this reason, we strongly support the positions taken by our colleagues around the world, including Napa Valley Vintners, the Comité Interprofessionnel du Vin de Champagne, the CNAOC and others. Considering the importance of geographic indications (GIs) for our wine region and given the lack of legal tools and resources that would enable our organization to protect against misleading secondary-level appellation names such as Long Island combined with the ".wine" and ".vin" strings, we urge the ICANN Board to take into consideration the Beijing GAC advice regarding these strings and not proceed beyond Initial Evaluation. We believe it is imperative that adequate safeguards along the lines proposed in Annex I of the GAC Communiqué of April 11, 2013, be put in place to protect wine growing place names before approving the ".wine" and ".vin" strings.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely yours

Ron Goerler, Jr.  
President

cc: Senator Charles Schumer  
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand  
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV  
Congressman Timothy Bishop  
Congressman Steve Israel  
Mr. Fadi Chehadé, President and CEO, ICANN  
Ms. Heather Dryden, Governmental Advisory Committee Chair  
Ms. Suzanne Radell, Senior Policy Advisor, NTIA