

# State of Tennessee



The Secretary of State  
State Capitol  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0305

Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State

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February 22, 2013

Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers  
12025 Waterfront Drive  
Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536

Subject: Letter of Support for the Restricted Use of the Top Level  
Domains, “.INC”, “.LLC”, “.CORP”, and “.LLP”

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter confirms that the Tennessee Secretary of State’s Office is charged with registering businesses in the State of Tennessee. In addition, my office monitors the position of good standing each of these businesses maintains and their overall right to conduct business transactions or commerce within the United States. The companies registered with this office are members of the larger community of registered U.S. Businesses, which can be further divided into the following designations: The Community of Registered Corporations, the Community of Registered Limited Liability Companies and the Community of Limited Liability Partnerships.

We understand that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”) is in the process of reviewing applications that refer to the business entity designations of INC, LLC, LLP and CORP. This office has been informed that DOT Registry, LLC has submitted community applications for these strings with restrictions that are intended to protect U.S. companies that are registered with the Secretary of State. With growing national concern about fraudulent business registration, business identity theft, and online consumer protection, this office believes that these strings should only be issued under a community designation in order to protect both the members of this community and consumers at large.

Our office believes that specific restrictions and policies must be in place to protect the community of U.S. Registered Businesses and to ensure that these extensions are only representative of members of their respective communities as verified through their respective Secretary of State’s Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tre Hargett".

Tre Hargett  
Secretary of State