

**Registries Constituency  
Generic Names Support Organization  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers**

September 24, 2009

Hon. Hank Johnson  
Chair, Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
1133 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Hearing on: The Expansion of Top Level Domains  
and its Effects on Competition –September 23, 2009**

Dear Chairman Johnson:

This letter is sent to supplement and correct the record of the above Hearing held on September 23, 2009. I write in my capacity as Chair of the Registries Constituency of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The Registries Constituency comprises all the parties under contract with ICANN to manage the registries of domain names in the generic top level domains (gTLDs).

In the course of the testimony on September 23, statements were made by several witnesses regarding the position and policy of the registries with regard to possible restrictions on cross-ownership of registries, registrars and back end service providers under ICANN's proposed guidelines for new gTLDs. Statements were made that the registries sought to prohibit registrars from owning and competing as back end registry service providers. This is not correct.

The registries support competition in the market for new gTLDs and firmly believe that all qualified back-end registry service providers – including providers affiliated with ICANN accredited registrars - should be permitted to compete to serve new and existing gTLDs.

The entire group of registries, operating within ICANN as the Registries Constituency, made a proposal, dated April 13, 2009, and posted on ICANN's web site at <http://forum.icann.org/lists/2gtld-guide/pdf87R06c18Sd.pdf>, that quite clearly would permit registry operators and registry service providers to own ICANN accredited registrars and vice versa. This proposal would simply limit the ability of a registry or registry service provider from acting as an authorized registrar, reseller or distributor of domain names within the TLD through the same entity that provides Registry Services for the TLD. The Constituency's proposal provides for certain exceptions for smaller registries, such as single registrant TLDs, and a 50,000 name carve out for community-based TLDs.

I ask that the record of the Hearing include this correction.

Respectfully submitted,

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