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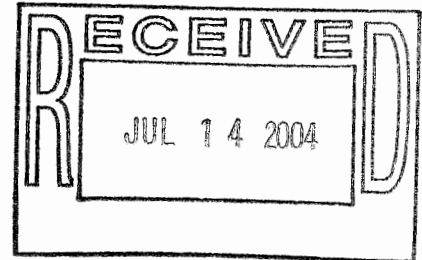
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TO: Dr. Paul Twomey
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PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 2 DATE: 7/14
FROM: _____

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July 14, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary
United States Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: ICANN Rebidding Process for Top Level Domain .net

Dear Secretary Evans:

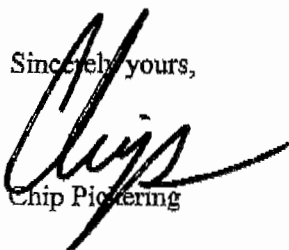
I have learned that within the next few months, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN") is expected to announce its process for rebidding the .net registry contract. I am writing to urge your cooperation in ensuring that the .net bidding process be conducted in an open and transparent manner and in accordance with the existing Memorandum of Understanding between ICANN and the United States Department of Commerce.

The top level domain ("TLD") .net is critical to the Internet's infrastructure and integral to the backbone of global commerce. The stakes are higher than most people probably realize. I have been told that a failure of .net could result in disruption of thirty-three percent (33%) of all email traffic, a loss of \$320,000 per minute in e-commerce, and failures across every major TLD, including such popular and critical applications as whitehouse.gov, blackberry.net, and cybersecurity.gov. Therefore, the structure and administration of the rebid will be critical to the security and continuing viability of the Internet.

It is imperative that ICANN conduct a fair and balanced process which is open and transparent to all participants in the rebidding process pursuant to the requirements of Section 5.2.1 of the current Registry Agreement between ICANN and VeriSign, Inc. dated May 2001. In this regard, ICANN should define the bidding criteria and make such criteria openly available to all parties participating in the rebid. Such a process is necessary to guarantee the selection of the most effective registrar which will in turn ensure the continued stability of the Internet and increased value to consumers.

Mr. Secretary, I respectfully request that the Department keep me informed about its efforts to require ICANN to follow a clear and transparent process for awarding this critical contract, upon which the enduring strength of the Internet and the smooth operation of interstate and international commerce depend. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance with regard to this matter and I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely yours,



Chip Pickering

CWP:mh

cc: Dr. Paul Twomey, President/CEO, ICANN

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