

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2011

Larry Strickland  
Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Administrator Strickland:

As members of the Congressional Olympic and Paralympic Caucus, we are writing with regards to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) 's proposal to expand the top-level domain (gTLD) space. We are concerned that ICANN's proposed actions will severely hinder the Olympic Movement unless specific safeguards are put in place.

Specifically, we are concerned that ICANN's plans to expand the available TLDs will dilute the efforts of the Olympic Movement and the public interest humanitarian efforts underlying Olympism. The words "Olympic" and "Olympiad" currently enjoy special recognition and protection legislatively in 25 countries and are subject to treaty protection in more than 40 countries. Here in the United States, under the Ted Stevens Act, Congress granted special status to the words "Olympic," "Olympiad," "Paralympic," "Paralympiad," and "Pan-American"; and the commercial usage of those terms is reserved exclusively for US Olympic Committee, with few exceptions. Congress provided this protection to Olympic trademarks and terminology in recognition that the Olympic Movement and the ideals thereof have reached and favorably impacted people from all over the world and should continue to do so.

If ICANN does not protect the above terms as it expands the available gTLDs, then unaffiliated third parties could potentially register Olympic- and Paralympic-related top-level domains, which would jeopardize the non-profit mission of the Olympic Movement. Instead of using such top-level domains to promote culture, education, and peace through sports, non-related third party entities could misappropriate such domains to benefit commercially from association with the Olympic Movement or to use them in connection with inappropriate or ill-advised causes.

In addition, here in the United States, the failure to protect the terms could affect the ability of the USOC to train and support the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements. Much of the funding for the USOC's efforts comes from corporate sponsorships, which are valued highly due to the USOC's ability to license and control of the use of the trademarked terms above. If Olympic and Paralympic terms are misused by third parties through the new gTLD expansion, the resulting dilution could severely diminish the value of corporate sponsorships; and as a result, the USOC would not be able to sustain its efforts without significant federal funding. In addition, the USOC does not have sufficient financial resources to wage legal battles against trademark infringers attempting to register Olympic- or Paralympic-related gTLDs in violation of the Ted Stevens Act. The USOC's

funds are much better spent on ensuring that athletes have the training and resources needed to proudly represent the United States in international athletic competition.

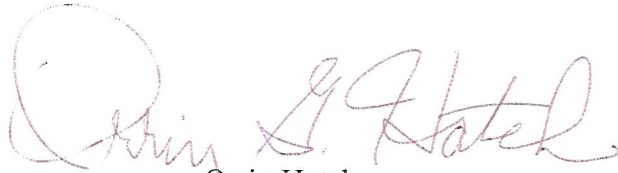
For the foregoing reasons, we fully support the request of the USOC, the IOC, and other NOCs, all of whom have respectfully asked that ICANN recognize the unique nature of these terms and take appropriate steps to prevent their registration as domain names by unauthorized third parties.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator