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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Att:

The Honorable Senator Jay D. Rockefeller
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
United States Senate
Washington DC

Dear Chairman Rockefeller,

We are following up on the discussions which took place during the 8 December 2011 hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation about ICANN's expansion of generic Top Level Domains.

As current chairs of ICANN's At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO), we found Ms. Esther Dyson's description of the ALAC circa 2003 extremely out of date. Her testimony depicted the ALAC prior to the establishment of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) which are designed to provide a structured input to the ALAC and then to ICANN from Internet end-users around the world. However, we fully support her overall message for the public to pay attention to the workings of ICANN, and that ICANN's door is open.

Today, the ALAC is able to comment on any aspect of the new gTLD program, which it has on several occasions, as well as any other program or process at ICANN. It carries much more "weight" within ICANN's multi-stakeholder, bottom up model, than it ever had in the past, thanks to the hard, relentless work of many end-user volunteers who are fighting in the "trenches" to bring the public interest to the ICANN table. We have nearly 140 At-Large Structures (acronym ALS – any kind of formal commercial or non commercial organization having established a process to collect member input, whether a local non-profit computer club, or a charity bringing computing to the disadvantaged) worldwide and are growing membership on a monthly basis.

Active At-Large members cannot purport to "represent" the 2.1 billion Internet users out there, but they can try to act in what they honestly believe is in the best interests of the Internet's end users.

Do we have enough members? Probably not -- our aim is to have at least one At-Large Structure (ALS) in every country around the world. We need more volunteers. We need more input from Internet users.

The vehicle is here. It just needs to be advertised. We are doing our part to raise awareness of ALAC and the issues of interest to Internet end-users. We ask that you share the information of this vehicle as outlined above with your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

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