



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Michael S. Lee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lee:

I have discussed with David Redl your concerns regarding his nomination to Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information in the Department of Commerce. He has assured me, as indicated in his enclosed letter, that in his former role he did not feel he had the authority to contradict a decision made by his House Committee Chairman, but that he understands my position regarding ICANN and that he is eager to learn of any possible mechanic for reversing it. As you know, I was not in government back when the decisions were made so I have no firsthand knowledge of what actually transpired, but he does seem to be sincere in his commitment going forward, as indicated in the enclosed letter, therefore I do support his nomination.

You also requested 23 sets of documents. The first two sets requested from Commerce and NTIA are within Commerce's control, and we are happy to share them with you or one of your staff at a time and place satisfactory to you. The documents requested by items 3 through 23 are not under our control. Therefore, unfortunately, your staff will need to deal directly with the other 21 parties.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

I have discussed with David Redl your concerns regarding his nomination to Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information in the Department of Commerce. He has assured me, as indicated in his enclosed letter, that in his former role he did not feel he had the authority to contradict a decision made by his House Committee Chairman, but that he understands my position regarding ICANN and that he is eager to learn of any possible mechanic for reversing it. As you know, I was not in government back when the decisions were made so I have no firsthand knowledge of what actually transpired, but he does seem to be sincere in his commitment going forward, as indicated in the enclosed letter, therefore I do support his nomination.

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I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Wilbur Ross

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

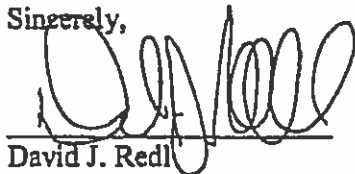
Dear Secretary Ross:

Thank you for your letter of July 28, 2017. In 2015, I was an employee of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. I did not have the authority to contradict the Chairman's stated policy position. Once the decision was made, it was my job to work to implement the Chairman's will.

I understand your position and willingness to consider alternatives to the current Internet Assigned Number Authority (IANA) situation. If I am confirmed I will analyze any potential alternatives and use my best efforts to further American interests and values on the Internet.

Additionally, please see enclosed a copy of my responses to Senator Cruz and Senator Lee. Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for the opportunity to clarify my views on these important matters.

Sincerely,



David J. Redl
Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Communications and Information - Designate

Responses of David J. Redl to Senators Ted Cruz and Mike Lee

1. Congress undoubtedly had the ability to change the law and, in so doing, determine the disposition of the contract with ICANN for the IANA stewardship functions. Additionally, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation are charged with oversight of the NTIA. In this role, it was and is appropriate for the Congress to conduct oversight and make determinations as to the appropriate actions with respect to the IANA contract.

Committee leadership decided that the best path forward, given political and legal realities, was to work across the aisle with our Democratic colleagues to produce a bill that would establish bipartisan rules of the road to guide NTIA in its decision-making process. The decision having been made, my job was to implement the Committee's will. I did not have the authority to speak out against any Committee decision.

2. Ensuring freedom of speech online is of paramount importance. U.S. companies should act as a beacon of the freedoms Americans enjoy and work to spread these ideals around the world. Just as we reject the notion of government censorship, I believe we should also reject government censorship by proxy.

Additionally, you asked how I plan to ensure that ICANN does not abuse its authority in overseeing registrars. First, the U.S. government must become a strong and unwavering advocate for U.S. interests and values in the Governmental Advisory Committee. If confirmed, I will assure that NTIA, in coordination with other U.S. government agencies, plays that role. In addition, ICANN remains a California corporation, subject to the laws of the United States. If confirmed, I will work with all parts of the U.S. government to ensure that ICANN operates with a level hand and respects the laws of the United States.

3. On this topic, I am in complete agreement with Secretary Ross. I am not aware of any specific proposals to reverse the IANA transition, but I am interested in exploring ways to achieve this goal. To that end, if I am confirmed I will recommend to Secretary Ross that we begin the process by convening a panel of experts to investigate options for unwinding the transition.