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ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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MEMORANDUM

May 8, 2014

To: Ranking Members Henry A. Waxman and Anna G. Eshoo
From: Committee on Energy and Commerce Democratic Staff
Re: Republican Statements of Support for the Multistakeholder Model

Today, the Energy and Commerce Committee is marking up the DOTCOM Act (H.R. 4342). This legislation would prevent the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from “relinquishing responsibility over the Internet domain name system” to the multistakeholder entity ICANN until completion of a GAO report. Rep. Rokita, one of the sponsors of the legislation, stated at the time of the bill’s introduction: “the Internet is the single greatest economic machine created in the last 50 years and is a shining example of our American Exceptionalism. ... [I]t is against our own national economic interest to relinquish control.”

You asked the staff to assess whether this interference with the multistakeholder model of Internet governance is consistent with prior statements of Republican members of the Committee. The staff review found multiple prior statements by Republican members endorsing the multistakeholder model and opposing government control of the Internet. The following are some examples of these statements:

“The Internet has prospered under the multi-stakeholder model absent the heavy-hand of government regulation ... I urge the administration to continue the United States’ commitment to the Internet’s collaborative governance structure and to reject international efforts to bring the Internet under government control.” Rep. Greg Walden, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (May 31, 2012) ([link](#))

“Under the multi-stakeholder governance model, non-regulatory institutions manage and operate the Internet by developing best practices with public and private sector input. Governments’ hands-off approach has enabled the Internet to grow at an astonishing pace and become perhaps the most powerful engine of social

and economic freedom and job creation the world has ever known.” Rep. Greg Walden, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (April 17, 2013) ([link](#))

“We need to send a strong message to the world that the Internet has thrived under a decentralized, bottom-up, multistakeholder governance model.” Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce (December 5, 2012) ([link](#))

“[W]e should all commit ourselves to the free market, multistakeholder Internet governance model that has worked so well in the past.” Rep. Marsha Blackburn, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce Vice Chairman (April 10, 2013) ([link](#))

“I would argue that one of the reasons that the telecommunications and technology industry has been so successful even in a tough economy is because the government hasn't figured out how to regulate it and slow it down. ... So many of the things we can do today and all of the conveniences that have been added through great new apps and great new technology have come from this multistakeholder governance of the Internet.” Rep. Steve Scalise, Member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Member (December 5, 2012) ([link](#))

“The Internet will only continue to thrive if governments refrain from regulating it and if it can remain under a multistakeholder governance model.” Rep. Bob Latta, Member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (February 2, 2013) ([link](#))

“I believe that the bottom-up stakeholder approach model has actually allowed economic development and prosperity in all levels of economy around the world.” Rep. Lee Terry, Member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (May 31, 2012) ([link](#))