

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
The President of the United States
The White House
West Wing
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush:

As co-chairs of the Congressional Internet Caucus, we are writing to applaud your position that governance of the Internet should not be transferred to an international government organization and to urge you to communicate this position to the international community during the upcoming World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunisia.

As you know, the Internet's domain name system (DNS) is administered by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a private, non-profit organization based in the United States that works closely with the U.S. Department of Commerce. We believe that this privately-operated approach fosters market principles and is the most efficient way to administer the DNS. The greater the government involvement in running the Internet's day-to-day operations, the more likely that red tape and overly burdensome regulations will result.

However, the U.N., with the support of countries including China, Iran, and Cuba, released a report earlier this year which included proposals to take control of administration of the Internet from the U.S.-based ICANN and give it to a bureaucratic U.N. body. Recently, the EU has signaled that it would also support having an international body oversee the Internet. We believe that it is unacceptable for the U.N. to administer the Internet, and are extremely concerned that the EU would move toward this position.

The United States is uniquely positioned to protect the fundamental principles of free press and free speech upon which the Internet has thrived. The U.S. Constitution guarantees these basic rights, and to cede control of the Internet to countries with at best questionable records regarding these rights could jeopardize the continued success of the Internet and lead to significant restrictions on access to the Internet's wealth of information.

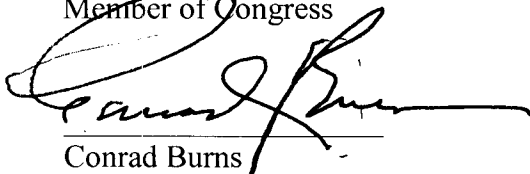
With the WSIS convening next month in Tunisia, we urge you to continue to take a strong stand for the principles that have guided the administration of the Internet to date and fostered the phenomenal growth of the Internet: free market principles, the freedoms of speech and the press, and limited bureaucratic involvement.

Thank you again for your work to ensure the freedom and effective administration of the Internet. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.

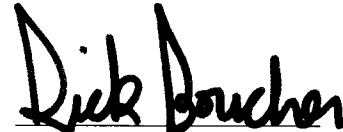
Sincerely,



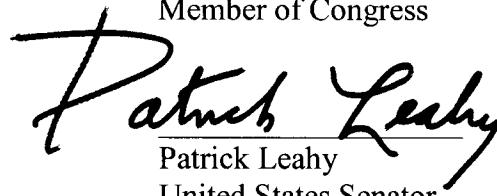
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Conrad Burns
United States Senator



Rick Boucher
Member of Congress



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator