

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from allowing the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions contract to lapse unless specifically authorized to do so by an Act of Congress.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DUFFY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from allowing the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions contract to lapse unless specifically authorized to do so by an Act of Congress.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Internet  
5 Freedom Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Department of Commerce and the Na-  
4 tional Telecommunications and Information Admin-  
5 istration (in this section referred to as the “NTIA”)  
6 should be responsible for maintaining the continuity  
7 and stability of services related to certain inter-  
8 dependent Internet technical management functions,  
9 known collectively as the Internet Assigned Numbers  
10 Authority (in this section referred to as the  
11 “IANA”), which includes—

12 (A) the coordination of the assignment of  
13 technical Internet protocol parameters;

14 (B) the administration of certain respon-  
15 sibilities associated with the Internet domain  
16 name system root zone management;

17 (C) the allocation of Internet numbering  
18 resources; and

19 (D) other services related to the manage-  
20 ment of the Advanced Research Project Agency  
21 and INT top-level domains.

22 (2) The interdependent technical functions de-  
23 scribed in paragraph (1) were performed on behalf  
24 of the Federal Government under a contract between  
25 the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and  
26 the University of Southern California as part of a

1 research project known as the Tera-node Network  
2 Technology project. As the Tera-node Network  
3 Technology project neared completion and the con-  
4 tract neared expiration in 1999, the Federal Govern-  
5 ment recognized the need for the continued perform-  
6 ance of the IANA functions as vital to the stability  
7 and correct functioning of the Internet.

8 (3) The NTIA may use its contract authority to  
9 maintain the continuity and stability of services re-  
10 lated to the IANA functions.

11 (4) If the NTIA uses its contract authority, the  
12 contractor, in the performance of its duties, must  
13 have or develop a close constructive working rela-  
14 tionship with all interested and affected parties to  
15 ensure quality and satisfactory performance of the  
16 IANA functions. The interested and affected parties  
17 include—

18 (A) the multi-stakeholder, private sector  
19 led, bottom-up policy development model for the  
20 domain name system that the Internet Corpora-  
21 tion for Assigned Names and Numbers rep-  
22 resents;

23 (B) the Internet Engineering Task Force  
24 and the Internet Architecture Board;

25 (C) Regional Internet Registries;

1 (D) top-level domain operators and man-  
2 agers, such as country codes and generic;

3 (E) governments; and

4 (F) the Internet user community.

5 (5) The IANA functions contract of the Depart-  
6 ment of Commerce explicitly declares that “[a]ll  
7 deliverables provided under this contract become the  
8 property of the U.S. Government.”. One of the  
9 deliverables is the automated root zone.

10 (6) Former President Bill Clinton’s Internet  
11 czar Ira Magaziner stated that “[t]he United States  
12 paid for the Internet, the Net was created under its  
13 auspices, and most importantly everything [research-  
14 ers] did was pursuant to government contracts.”

15 (7) Under section 3 of article IV of the Con-  
16 stitution of the United States, Congress has the ex-  
17 clusive power to “dispose of and make all needful  
18 Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or  
19 other Property belonging to the United States”.

20 (8) The .gov and .mil top-level domains are the  
21 property of the United States Government, and as  
22 property, the United States Government should have  
23 the exclusive control and use of those domains in  
24 perpetuity.

1 **SEC. 3. MAINTAINING THE IANA FUNCTIONS CONTRACT.**

2 The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Commu-  
3 nications and Information may not allow the responsibility  
4 of the National Telecommunications and Information Ad-  
5 ministration with respect to the Internet domain name  
6 system functions, including responsibility with respect to  
7 the authoritative root zone file and the performance of the  
8 Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions, to termi-  
9 nate, lapse, expire, be cancelled, or otherwise cease to be  
10 in effect unless a Federal statute enacted after the date  
11 of enactment of this Act expressly grants the Assistant  
12 Secretary such authority.

13 **SEC. 4. EXCLUSIVE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OWNER-**  
14 **SHIP AND CONTROL OF .GOV AND .MIL DO-**  
15 **MAINS.**

16 Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment  
17 of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Com-  
18 munications and Information shall provide to Congress a  
19 written certification that the United States Government  
20 has—

21 (1) secured sole ownership of the .gov and .mil  
22 top-level domains; and

23 (2) entered into a contract with the Internet  
24 Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers that  
25 provides that the United States Government has ex-

- 1 exclusive control and use of those domains in per-
- 2 petuity.