



THE
AMERICAN
CONSERVATIVE
UNION

May 28, 2014

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Conservative Union, I urge you to support Sean Duffy's amendment to H.R. 4660, the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. The Duffy amendment would prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) from using funds to turn over control of Internet domain name system from ICANN to an international agency.

The Duffy amendment would reinforce report language in the bill, noting that no funds are allocated for carrying out this program, and the Shimkus amendment to the Defense Authorization bill, which would hold up the process until a GAO report on the consequences of this change is submitted to Congress.

The system in place has worked well for 20 years. Under U.S. government stewardship, ICANN has preserved an open system that preserves free speech protections for domain name users not only in the U.S., but around the world. Turning the system over to what is being called "the global multi-stakeholder community" means in reality that countries that spend much of their time trying to censor the Internet, such as Russia and China, will have increasing influence on how the system is run.

The announcement of unilateral action by the Obama Administration in March is yet another case of executive decision-making with no regard for Congress, the American people or, for that matter, keeping the Internet free. Passing the Duffy amendment would send a message that they need to rethink this process.

Please vote "YES" on the Duffy amendment to the CJS Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Larry Hart
Director of Government Relations
American Conservative Union