

2800 28th Street, Suite 170 Santa Monica, CA 90405
Phone 310.450.6900 Fax 310.450.6988
www.minardosgroup.com

August 17, 2012

VIA E-MAIL (diane.schroeder@icann.org)

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
Chairman, Board of Directors
ICANN
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536

Re: Support for ICANN's New gTLD Program

Dear Dr. Crocker:

I write to express my support for ICANN, in response to the August 7, 2012 letter from the United States Senate & House Judiciary Committees. As an applicant for three new gTLDs, I have gained much insight into ICANN's careful and concerned approach towards developing their new gTLD program. I can personally attest to ICANN's commitment to transparency and the creation of a "secure, stable marketplace".

Contrary to the implications of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee's letter, I truly believe that ICANN effectively manages itself in a transparent and responsible manner. Public comment periods precede nearly every ICANN action, and I have personally witnessed the concern ICANN devotes to such comments. ICANN actively solicits input from both within and outside its community. It goes to great lengths to ensure that each institutional decision is carefully formulated, well researched, and represents the most secure course of action.

ICANN is engaged in an ambitious and yet also necessary program to organize and expand the Internet. The creation of categorized new gTLDs ensures that the Internet will grow in an intuitive and well-structured manner, avoiding the pitfalls of an overly crowded and disaggregated ".com" space. Throughout this process, ICANN repeatedly sought input from all interested parties. I witnessed ICANN repeatedly reach out to brands as they developed a program that balances important legal rights protections with the need to allow new gTLDs to flourish in an open environment. Trademark holders will have numerous opportunities to enforce their rights, both preemptively and retroactively. I can confidently declare that the

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new rights protection mechanisms developed by ICANN go above and beyond those already in place, to ensure that this program maintains the security of the Internet.

Despite my participation in the new gTLD program, I am not a part of the “traditional” ICANN community. I have never operated a registry or registrar, but rather, have spent my career founding and running a construction and development business. Yet, from the moment I became involved with ICANN, I found the institution's policies and processes to be consistently transparent. Largely because of ICANN's outreach I have had a positive applicant experience. Far from being clandestine, my experience has been that ICANN welcomes anyone with a modicum of interest in the gTLD process, takes their views seriously and goes to great lengths to balance the concerns of all stakeholders. My presence in the ICANN community is testament to that.

Sincerely,



George Minardos

cc: Thomas A. Brackey II