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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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March 6, 2007

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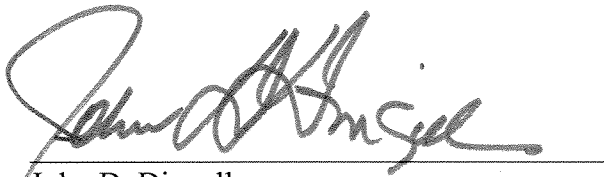
Mr. John R. M. Kneuer
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Assistant Secretary:

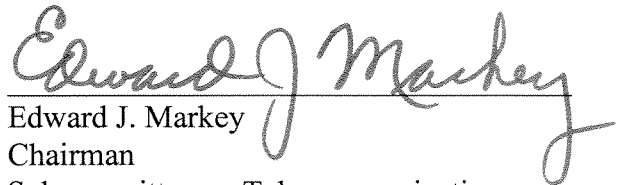
We are writing with respect to the oversight hearing we anticipate conducting on the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on March 22, 2007. We look forward to your participation at this hearing.

In preparation for the hearing, we request that you respond to the following pre-hearing questions by close of business on March 16, 2007. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Edward J. Markey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Telecommunications
and the Internet

The Honorable John R. M. Kneuer
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Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Fred Upton, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Attachment

Pre-Hearing Questions for the Honorable John R. M. Kneuer
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
U.S. Department of Commerce

1. In March 2004, President Bush established a national goal for “universal, affordable access for broadband technology by the year 2007.” Please outline the steps NTIA has taken to achieve this goal.
2. As you are aware, on February 6, 2007, an attack occurred involving several of the Internet’s 13 root DNS servers. The attack reportedly focused on root servers “G” (maintained by the U.S. Department of Defense), “L” (maintained by ICANN), and to a lesser extent, “M” (maintained in Japan). While the attack significantly affected traffic at the first two root servers mentioned, because the other root servers were spared the online assault, overall Internet functions were maintained. Please provide us with the steps that NTIA has taken in the last three years to safeguard the integrity of (1) the root server system and (2) Internet connectivity generally. Specifically, outline efforts taken in conjunction with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and private sector entities.
3. Please provide a copy of any analyses or other commentary provided to NTIA by other Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice, in conjunction with NTIA’s review of the dot-com domain name registry agreement between ICANN and VeriSign.
4. Please provide us with information regarding NTIA’s efforts over the last three years to provide competition in domain name registration services.
5. Please provide us with information regarding work conducted at NTIA’s Institute for Telecommunications Sciences (ITS) in Boulder, Colorado, on telecommunications research to assist public safety and homeland security entities on interoperable emergency communications. Please include in your response any research conducted by ITS under cooperative research agreements with or on behalf of other Federal agencies or private sector entities.
6. Congress enacted the “Dot Kids Implementation and Efficiency Act” that led to the creation of a child-friendly, online “safe zone” at www.kids.us. That Act required NTIA to “carry out a program to publicize the availability of the new domain and to educate the parents of minors regarding the process for utilizing the new domain in combination and coordination with hardware and software technologies that provide for filtering or blocking.” Please provide us with information about the actions taken by NTIA to publicize the domain and to educate parents.
7. Please outline any steps NTIA has taken in the last three years to enhance minority participation in telecommunications and minority ownership of telecommunications licenses or entities.