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Before the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation

Examining Governance and ICANN

With respect to governance, the government that governs least governs best. The government that listens to the will of the people can best serve the needs of the people.

ICANN does neither. ICANN has morphed from its intended role as the coordinator of internet names and numbers into a private, corporate world government over the internet that deliberates in secret and ignores the will of the people, while "hiding" behind a facade of slogans like "openness and transparency". Their words and deeds prove to be anything but open or transparent.

As ICANN Director Dr. Vint Cerf admitted before the House Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications on February 8, 2001, the selections of 7 new companies to act as Top Level Domain (TLD) registries by ICANN was "subjective". The ICANN board's selection of dominant industry players at the exclusion of entrepreneurs and small businesses also ignored the voices of the only publicly elected members of its board who were denied a vote in the TLD selection process.

Privatization of government services may act as a way streamline government efficiency and provide opportunities to the private sector, but it should not act as a replacement of government. Certain aspects of government that are essential to the functioning of civil society are those that protect the rights of its citizens by rule of law. When those elements are privatized there must be adequate measures taken to assure no Constitutional protections are lost