

Chairman John Thune
Written Questions for the Record to
Ambassador Gross
“Preserving the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance.”
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Question 1: At the recent plenipotentiary in Busan, how did the U.S. government use the IANA transition to push back on proposals to enhance the role of the International Telecommunications Union over Internet governance?

Response of witness Amb. David A. Gross on behalf of the Internet Governance Coalition:

I appreciate receiving this question “[a]t the recent plenipotentiary in Busan, how did the U.S. government use the IANA transition to push back on proposals to enhance the role of the International Telecommunication Union over Internet governance.” Because of the significant number of government to government private bilateral meetings during PP-14 that did not include me or any other Internet Governance Coalition member, this question can only be answered by a representative of the United States government.

Thank you very much.

As a courtesy, and in response to your request for consolidation of questions and answers, below is a question for the record received from Senator Cantwell, and the Response of Amb. David A. Gross, as transmitted on April 6, 2015.

Questions for the Record
Senator Cantwell
“Preserving the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance”

Q1. In January 2014 the AWS-3 auction was completed. It was the most successful auction of radio spectrum so far, drawing nearly \$45 billion in bids for 65 megahertz of spectrum. The auction was an important milestone in the administration’s efforts to meet the President’s goal of making available 500 megahertz of spectrum for wireless broadband by 2020.

Larry Strickling, the Asst. Secretary of NTIA said that the auction “represents a paradigm shift in our approach to making spectrum available for commercial wireless providers.”

He was talking about the growing phenomenon of spectrum sharing and the fact that NTIA has been working with federal agencies to identify federal bands that could be repurposed for commercial use.

NTIA is to be commended because we know some federal users are harder to convince than others.

Q1a. I am very encouraged that NTIA is continuing to work with government spectrum users to identify spectrum bands for mobile broadband.

What can we in Congress do to encourage federal spectrum users or federal agencies to work with NTIA to identify more spectrum for commercial use in light of the impending spectrum crunch?

Response of witness Amb. David A. Gross on behalf of the Internet Governance Coalition:

I appreciate receiving the question about what Congress can “do to encourage federal spectrum users or federal agencies to work with NTIA to identify more spectrum for commercial use in light of the impending spectrum crunch.” The Internet Governance Coalition, which I represent, recognizes the critical importance of spectrum to the current and future communications infrastructure of the United States; however, the Coalition does not have a specific policy position on this matter.

The Coalition does believe that it is vital that additional spectrum be made available to support the continued growth of America’s digital economy.

Thank you very much.