

**Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo (as prepared)**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**House Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
***Stakeholder Perspectives on the IANA Transition***  
**2322 Rayburn House Office Building**  
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Earlier this year, Singapore's Minister of Communications and Information, Dr. Yaacob bin Ibrahim stated that "no one person, organization, or even country, has a monopoly on the expertise and wisdom needed to meet the challenges that we are facing on the Internet on a day-to-day basis."

I wholeheartedly agree.

It's why Congress on a bipartisan, bicameral basis has consistently stated that the United States should continue to preserve and advance the multistakeholder governance model under which the Internet has thrived. Our leadership in the IANA transition is critical, but inserting a unilateral role for the U.S. government, as the DOTCOM Act does, undermines the legitimacy of the multistakeholder model and emboldens our enemies.

For nearly 20 years, it's been U.S. policy to transition the government's role in administering the domain name system to the multistakeholder global community. By requiring the GAO to study the pros and cons of making such a transition, the DOTCOM Act fails to recognize this history. Equally concerning is the opposition from the stakeholder community, including NetChoice's Steve DelBianco who will testify today that a post-analysis by GAO of the transition proposal is no longer necessary.

The success of the IANA transition depends on built-in mechanisms for transparency and accountability, and a commitment by ICANN to resist any expansion of the role governments or intergovernmental organizations may play in ICANN's deliberations. If the Majority shares these goals and I believe they do, then we should work together on a bipartisan alternative to the DOTCOM Act which provides a reasonable period of time for Congress and the general public to review the IANA transition proposal.

With responsible oversight, a successful transition of the IANA functions will preserve the Internet's guiding principles of openness, security, stability and resiliency and ensure ICANN cannot be exposed to government capture.

We are joined today by an esteemed panel of witnesses who understand the Internet's guiding values and the importance of the multistakeholder model. I thank each of you for being here today and I look forward to your important testimony.