



COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATS
ENERGY & COMMERCE
RANKING MEMBER FRANK PALLONE, JR.

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**Remarks by Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Markup of H.R. 805, the Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters
(DOTCOM) Act**

Thank you Chairman Walden. Today's markup is an example of what this Committee can accomplish when we work in a truly bipartisan manner. I want to thank you and Representative Shimkus for working with Democrats to find a smart solution that works for everyone.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress have long been united in our support for the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. For three decades, the United States government has been moving towards greater private sector management of the domain name system. The transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority or IANA is a continuation of our commitment to the privatization of the domain name system first initiated in the 1990s.

The stakes for this transition are high because the Internet is such a central part of the global economy and society. But if it's done right, the billions of people around the globe that use the Internet shouldn't even notice.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has laid out clear principles for the transition, in keeping with our commitment to the multi-stakeholder model and an open, global Internet. Congress' job is to make sure that NTIA lives up to these commitments. I believe the working groups convened by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers are moving in the direction of these goals. And we must ensure that ICANN remains accountable after NTIA's stewardship role ends.

The bipartisan substitute amendment to the DOTCOM Act that we are offering today does just that. We are conducting the necessary and appropriate Congressional oversight of NTIA, while renewing our commitment to an Internet free from governmental control. I believe the DOTCOM Act is a better alternative to placing funding restrictions on NTIA that prevent the agency from implementing the transition.

I urge all my colleagues to support the substitute amendment. I also encourage our colleagues in the Senate to move quickly and get this bill to the President's desk. A vote for the DOTCOM Act is a vote for a responsible IANA transition and the continued success of the free and open Internet.

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