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The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications & Technology
Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Walden:

The Internet has emerged as a key driver for civic engagement, economic growth and social progress worldwide, but powerful forces threaten to undercut these worthy and important goals. Last December, Verizon participated in the United States delegation to the World Conference on International Telecommunications ("WCIT") in Dubai. Verizon is grateful for your leadership in passing a bipartisan and bicameral resolution (S. Con. Res. 50) in preparation for WCIT expressing congressional opposition to government control of the Internet and support for the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. International Telecommunications Union (ITU) member states could not achieve consensus on whether and how the WCIT treaty should address Internet governance, and the United States government, guided by S. Con. Res. 50, did not sign the WCIT treaty as it was inconsistent with U.S. policy. While 54 other countries also declined to sign the treaty, 89 countries signed, leading U.S. Ambassador to the WCIT, Terry Kramer, to note, "It is clear that the world community is at a crossroads in its collective view of the Internet and of the most optimal environment for the flourishing of the Internet in this century."

The conclusion of WCIT in stalemate does not end the threat of government control over the Internet, but is instead the beginning of a much longer, worldwide dialogue on the role of Internet governance. That dialogue will continue at the ITU on May 15-16 at the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum in Geneva, in July at the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators in Poland, and finally in October 2014 at the ITU Plenipotentiary in Korea, which could determine the future role of the ITU vis a vis the Internet.

It is important that the United States Government remains vigilant in these forums and has clear guidance from Congress. We urge your Committee and the 113th Congress to reiterate the consistent and unequivocal policy of the United States to promote a global Internet free from government control and to preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet today.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this critical issue. We look forward to working with you throughout 2013-14 to preserve Internet freedom worldwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter B. Davidson".

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Anna Eshoo