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July 14, 2014

Mr. Steve Crocker  
Chair, Internet Corp. for Assigning Names and Numbers  
12025 Waterfront Dr. #300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094

Dear Mr. Crocker:

I am writing regarding pending applications for new .vin and .wine "generic top level domain names" (gTLDs) and am pleased there was a 60-day delay in granting the new domain names, as there are very important issues still to resolve. I want to ensure that Geographic Indications are appropriately protected through this process.

This issue is of particular interest to wineries on Long Island. The region has already devoted a lot of its resources to prevent abuse of the LongIslandWineCountry.com domain name. Although prominent wine regions around the world are concerned about the release of the new domain names, small regions like Long Island will be particularly affected because, unlike their colleagues in Napa or Champagne, they simply do not have the means to engage in costly legal battles to defend their geographic identities globally. As a result, there is a considerable risk that regional brands, especially those of smaller wine growing regions, will be diminished and consumers around the world will be misled.

It's crucial for wine-growing regions on Long Island and elsewhere that they are protected from cybersquatting and similar activities. I understand there are a variety of legitimate uses for domain names and gTLDs and I hope that a mutual agreement among applicants for .wine and .vin and other interested parties can be reached. Should such an agreement not be reached, I urge you to withhold granting these gTLDs to anyone until such a time.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Colleen Nguyen in my office at 202-225-3335 or [colleen.nguyen@mail.house.gov](mailto:colleen.nguyen@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Israel".

Steve Israel  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling, Administrator, NTIA  
Suzanne Radell, Senior Telecommunication Policy Advisor, NTIA