

113th CONGRESS
1st Session

H. RES. _____

To Prepare and Protect Internet Users for an Unprecedented Expansion of
the Internet

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Date
Sponsor, co sponsors

1 *WHEREAS*, Over two billion people use the Internet;

2

3 *WHEREAS*, Internet safety and security is central to 21st Century commerce, commerce,
4 communication, innovation, and more;

5

6 *WHEREAS*, E-commerce is a key source of economic stimulation, with \$226 billion in online
7 retail sales in the United States in 2012;¹

8

9 *WHEREAS*, The number of Internet shoppers in the U.S. is expected to increase to 192 million by
10 2016;²

11

¹ *Speed of Lightning*. Digital image. Baynote: <http://www.baynote.com/infographic/speed-of-lightning/>

² <http://mashable.com/2012/11/06/ecommerce-statistics/>

12 *WHEREAS*, Over the course of the next year, over 1,400 new Top Level Domains - the text to the
13 right of the dot in an Internet address – will be added to the 22 now in common use, such as
14 .COM, .EDU, .ORG, an increase of 2,500 percent;

15

16 *WHEREAS*, This will be by far the largest expansion of Internet space since the Internet was born.

17

18 *WHEREAS*, Close to 600 new Top Level Domains will be open to the public to purchase
19 websites, much as the public has done in .COM;

20

21 *WHEREAS*, These second-level domains will exponentially increase the number of websites
22 available on the Internet;

23

24 *WHEREAS*, The Internet can be a dangerous place where bad actors work to defraud Internet
25 users, steal their identities, launch phishing schemes, and plant malware;

26

27 *WHEREAS*, Expanded Internet real estate provides more space in which bad actors may prey on
28 unsuspecting Internet users;

29

30 *WHEREAS*, A common practice among bad actors is to register trademarked domain names or
31 names confusingly similar to trademarks to exploit trusted Internet sites and confuse Internet
32 users;

33

34 *WHEREAS*, U.S. businesses lost \$1 billion to cybersquatters in 2012, and U.S. consumers lost
35 \$20.7 billion to cybercrime, including attacks, malware, and phishing schemes hosted on
36 cybersquatted sites. ³

37

38 *WHEREAS*, The online sale of counterfeit goods is a multi-billion dollar industry that threatens
39 the public health and safety and causes staggering economic losses for nations, corporations, and
40 job seekers;

41

42 *WHEREAS*, Almost 3,000 domain names were the subject of World Intellectual Property
43 Organization (WIPO) arbitration in 2012, a number that has climbed steadily since 1999.⁴

44

45 *WHEREAS*, Only 6 percent of Internet users are aware that 1,400 new Top Level Domains will
46 soon be added to the Internet;⁵

47

48 *WHEREAS*, Based on registration activity in the most recent Top Level Domain added to the
49 Internet, .XXX in 2011, brand owners might be expected to invest \$8 billion in the first year
50 alone to protect their brands and customers from potential fraud in the new Top Level Domains.⁶

51

52 *WHEREAS*, Congress is committed to a safe and secure Internet so the medium that has

³ 2012 Norton Cybercrime Report. Norton by Symantec

⁴ <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/statistics/cases.jsp>

⁵ InsightsNow survey conducted for FairWinds Partners (link)

⁶ The Coalition Against Domain Name Abuse (CADNA)

53 revolutionized communications, economic opportunities, and the development and synthesis of

54 new ideas may continue to do so;

55

IT IS RESOLVED, that Congress should:

- Maintain close oversight of the new Top Level Domain Program run by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to ensure the program is implemented fairly, responsibly, and in the interest of preserving the communications, economic, and innovation benefits the Internet provides;
- Examine existing law to ensure that it effectively protects Internet users against online dangers including but not limited to privacy intrusions, malware, phishing schemes, trademark infringement, online counterfeit sales, and other harms caused by cybersquatting;
- Legislate stronger penalties and other deterrents to online cybersquatting and crime to ensure the new Internet landscape, as represented by new gTLDs, is less dangerous than what we have experienced so far.