



September 18, 2012

The Honorable John Kerry, Chairman  
The Honorable Richard G. Lugar, Ranking Member  
United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kerry and Ranking Member Lugar:

I write today on behalf of Google to express our company's full support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 50, which seeks to ensure the Internet remains an open, stable, and global platform for economic growth, innovation, and cultural and civic discourse.

I understand the Committee will consider S. Con. Res. 50 at its next Business Meeting. It is our hope that the committee will vote the resolution out of Committee in order to allow for its swift passage by the full Senate. As you likely know, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a similar resolution earlier this year on August 2, 2012.

Historically, international discussions of Internet policy have flourished in a multi-stakeholder system that involves the input of lawmakers, academics, private sector participants, civil society, and users. However, this December in Dubai, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will review the international agreements governing telecommunications, and some member countries see this as an opportunity to expand the ITU's regulatory authority over the Internet. If certain member countries are successful in Dubai, they could change the Internet governance process as we know it, producing extra-territorial control over the Internet and substantially limiting the role of users and other vital, nongovernmental actors in important Internet policy debates.

It is critically important for the U.S. Government to engage in the ITU process and encourage like-minded countries – those that believe in the social and economic benefits of a free and open Internet – to do so as well. We need a global coalition to ensure transparency, openness, and an outcome that preserves the features of the Internet and its operation that have been so productive over the past 30 years.

By passing this resolution, Congress will unequivocally show its support of a free and open Internet and highlight the Internet's critical role in growing the global economy and the success of the multi-stakeholder model that lies at the heart of its governance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vint Cerf', is written over a horizontal line.

Vint Cerf  
*Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist*  
Google Inc.