



**State of North Carolina
Department of the Secretary of State**

ELAINE F. MARSHALL
SECRETARY OF STATE

February 13, 2012

Dot Registry
208 W 19th St
Kansas City, MO 64108

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter advises that the Department of the Secretary of State of North Carolina is charged with overseeing the business formation process for the formation of corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), non-profit companies, professional associations, and several other types of business structures, as well as the maintenance of North Carolina's database relating to the aforementioned business entities. The businesses registered with this office are members of the larger community of corporations authorized to conduct business in the United States.

We understand that the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will be accepting applications for new web extensions this year. This office has been informed that companies, such as DOT Registry, LLC, will be applying for the strings, ".INC" and ".LLC" with restrictions that are intended to protect U.S. companies and consumers that are registered with their state's administrator.

In the event ICANN decides to issue these strings and in order to further the public policy reasons for which entities file at the state level, we believe that such strings should only be issued to companies that are registered with a Secretary of State or equivalent agency. I believe that entities not appropriately registered and maintained in any state should be prohibited from strings that would misrepresent their existence. As most Secretaries of State are not equipped to verify legitimate entity existence, even though we maintain that information, the verification process should be a requirement, albeit not ours.

Sincerely,

Elaine F. Marshall