



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

05 April 2012

Jeffrey W. Bullock
Secretary of State
State of Delaware
Department of State
Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 3
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Mr. Jeffrey W. Bullock:

This communication is in response to your 20 March 2012 correspondence urging ICANN to reject any applications that ICANN might receive for delegation of .INC, .CORP, .LLC, .LLP, .BANK, and .TRUST as unrestricted top-level domains.

The application window for new gTLDs ends on 12 April 2012. We encourage the State of Delaware to actively participate in the process and monitor the ICANN website for further developments.

While the New gTLD Program does not specifically prohibit the names you have mentioned in your letter, the program does provide avenues to raise objections. Parties with standing have the option to have their objections considered before a panel of qualified experts. Four types of formal objections to new gTLDs will be permitted: (1) String Confusion Objection; (2) Legal Rights Objection; (3) Limited Public Interest Objection; and (4) Community Objection. A formal objection initiates a dispute resolution proceeding.

The New gTLD Program also provides a forum for governments (through ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee) to provide advice and voice concerns regarding names that might be objectionable or sensitive. The Governmental Advisory Committee's key role is to provide advice to ICANN on issues of public policy, and especially where there may be an interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements. The New gTLD Program includes two processes, the Governmental Advisory Committee "Early Warning" and "Advice" processes that also serve to protect the interests you describe in your letter. As with objections, these processes are described in Module 1 and 3 of the Applicant Guidebook for new gTLDs (available on the ICANN website). The Early Warning process allows governments to provide a notice to an applicant that an applied-for string might be sensitive or controversial, and provides incentives for the applicant to withdraw the sensitive application. The Advice process allows governments to provide advice to the ICANN Board that a certain application should be rejected.

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If after reviewing these procedures you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to send them to newgtld@icann.org. The State of Delaware may also wish to consider raising directly with any potential applicant(s) for .INC, .CORP, .LLC, .LLP, .BANK, and .TRUST any issues/concerns with regards to the commercial use of such TLD(s). In addition, the State can participate in the objection processes, or directly request that the U.S. representative to the Governmental Advisory Committee register concerns through the Early Warning and Advice processes.

For more information on the formal objection and dispute resolution process for new gTLDs, please refer to the ICANN new gTLDs website at <http://newgtlds.icann.org>. The Applicant Guidebook can be found at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb> and information about ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee is at <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Governmental+Advisory+Committee>.

Sincerely yours,

New gTLD Customer Service

cc: Akram Atallah
cc: Kurt Pritz
cc: Jamie Hedlund
cc: Michael Salazar
cc: Trang Nguyen