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January 26, 2011

Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: House Resolution 57 – International Internet Governance

Dear Chairman Ros-Lehtinen:

Congratulations on achieving your leadership position with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. I know you will do great things for our country in your role as Chairman.

It is already clear that the 112th Congress will face many opportunities and challenges, but I am confident that if we continue to listen to the American people, and carry out their will, our country will become even stronger.

An issue I believe to be of increasing concern to our citizens is Internet governance. Americans have always been skeptical about big government power grabs, especially into areas that impact their daily lives. The Internet is one such area where Americans want less government micromanaging – not more. And while many of us are doing what we can to prevent the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) from imposing excessive government regulations on the Internet by implementing their so-called “network neutrality” policy, few people are aware of the global regulatory threat the Internet currently faces.

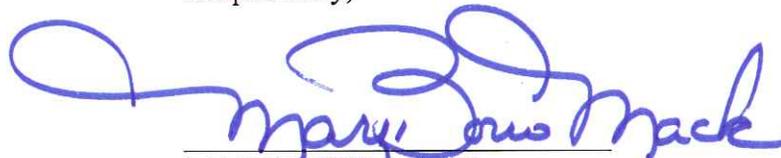
It is widely known that international governmental organizations like the United Nations would like to become the epicenter of Internet governance. It is my strong opinion that we must do all we can to oppose this global governmental attempt to regulate the Internet. The Internet has thrived precisely because it is not governed in a top-down manner by heavy handed and cumbersome governmental organizations. To reverse course now would undermine the bottom-up Internet framework that has enhanced commercial opportunity, connected people and spread the freedom of expression to places like Iran and Tunisia.

Because of the importance of this issue, today I re-introduced House Resolution 57, which expresses the Sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that the United Nations and other international governmental organizations shall not be allowed to exercise control over the Internet. First introduced in the 111th Congress, my resolution expresses the kind of common sense ideas that Americans care about. I believe very strongly that our constituents want us to call attention to this important issue and work to stop international governmental organizations from trying to hijack control of the Internet.

It is my hope that you will use your leadership authority as the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs to advance this important resolution. I look forward to working with you on this important matter. Additionally, if your staff should have any questions about House Resolution 57 or the issue in general, please have them contact my Legislative Director, Paul Cancienne, at (202) 225-5330.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,



MARY BONOMACK
Member of Congress