



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

September 10, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Latta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Latta:

On behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), this responds to your letter, dated June 24, 2020, to the Department of Justice (Department), FBI, and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Your letter requested information about how the Department and its components utilize domain name information, also known as WHOIS, in carrying out their respective obligations to conduct investigations and intercede when illegal activity has been identified, especially online.

The FBI appreciated the opportunity to engage with your staff on this topic during a briefing provided via conference call on September 2, 2020. During that discussion, subject matter experts from the Department, FBI, and DEA provided information on how WHOIS records are used in the execution of our operational and investigative functions. The briefers also discussed how greater WHOIS access for law enforcement would increase the effectiveness of such investigations by identifying illicit activity in specific areas, and would assist in disrupting and dismantling criminal organizations. If you have any further questions regarding this issue, please contact the FBI's Office of Congressional Affairs.

Thank you for your support of the FBI, its mission, and its people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill C. Tyson", is written over a horizontal line.

Jill C. Tyson  
Assistant Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs