

**POLITICO | Opinion | Letter to the editor: Internet censorship is bad business**  
**OPINION CONTRIBUTOR**

# Letter to the editor: Internet censorship is bad business




The Internet adds \$2 trillion to the U.S. gross domestic product. | AP Photo

3/1/11 3:11 PM EST

In your interview with John Morton, director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, “ICE director defends website seizures” (POLITICO, Feb. 28), about seizing domain names from foreign enterprises, Morton displays a troubling and cavalier disregard for the consequences of applying our intellectual property law extraterritorially.

The Internet adds \$2 trillion to the U.S. gross domestic product. We must not endanger this engine of innovation and job creation by promoting international norms by which foreign governments might seize assets or

domain names from U.S. companies. This is particularly important at a time when authoritarian governments, fearing free exchange of ideas by their citizens, seek any pretext to suppress the open Internet.

 **Listen** (javascript:showOdiogoReadNowFrame ('101651,101652,101653,101654,101655', 'letter to the editor internet censorship is bad business', '0', 530, 80);)

## **Latest on POLITICO**

**Jennings was asked to run for Senate**

([http://www.politico.com/blogs/davidcatanese/0311/Ken\\_Jennings\\_was\\_asked\\_to\\_run\\_for\\_Senate.html](http://www.politico.com/blogs/davidcatanese/0311/Ken_Jennings_was_asked_to_run_for_Senate.html))

**Khloe Kardashian quotes Cain**

([http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0311/Khloe\\_Kardashian\\_quotes\\_Herman\\_Cain.html](http://www.politico.com/blogs/bensmith/0311/Khloe_Kardashian_quotes_Herman_Cain.html))

**VIDEO: POLITICO Playback** (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0311/50669.html>)

**GOP drills for an energy strategy** (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0311/50664.html>)

**Jobless rate falls to under 9 percent** (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0311/50662.html>)

**Playbook: Tame those benefits** (<http://www.politico.com/playbook/>)

I was particularly troubled to see Morton's claim that ICE's conduct doesn't really affect Internet censorship by authoritarian regimes. Our State Department has clearly recognized that the world is watching a competition between the China-Iranian-North Korean model for Internet control versus the Internet freedom model of democracies.

The more the U.S. blocks the Internet, the more hypocritical we become when our diplomats try to combat the trade and free speech issues created

by Internet blocking and censorship abroad.

Ed Black

President and Chief Executive Officer

Computer & Communications Industry Association

### **Read more about:**

Immigration,  
Letter To The Editor,  
Internet,  
John Morton

### **More on POLITICO**

## News

[POLITICO Home](#)  
[2012 LIVE 44](#)  
[Arena](#)  
[CLICK](#)  
[Congress](#)  
[Opinion](#)  
[Video](#)  
[POLITICO Pro](#)

[Ben Smith](#)  
[David Catanese](#)  
[On Congress](#)  
[On Media](#)  
[Josh Gerstein](#)

## Tip Sheets

[Playbook](#)  
[Morning Score](#)  
[Morning Money](#)  
[Pulse](#)  
[Huddle](#)  
[Morning Energy](#)  
[Morning Defense](#)  
[Morning Tech](#)

## Policy

[Money](#)  
[Health Care](#)  
[Energy](#)  
[Defense](#)  
[Technology](#)

## More Info

[About Us](#)  
[Advertising](#)  
[Article Archive](#)  
[Breaking News Alerts](#)  
[Community](#)  
[Employment](#)  
[FAQ](#)  
[Log in/Register](#)

[Mobile POLITICO](#)  
[POLITICO Jobs](#)  
[RSS / Widgets](#)  
[Site Map](#)  
[Store](#)  
[Subscription](#)