



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION
State Capitol 7th Floor
Robert C. Ripley
Capitol Administrator

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JUN 10 2013

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Request for Waiver
Office of the Capitol Commission

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NITC 7-104 Web Domain Name Standard
All state associated web sites will have a nebraska.gov domain name.

Description of problem or issue

Since 1998, the Office of the Capitol Commission has been using the website www.capitol.org for the Nebraska State Capitol's web presence. We are very proud of our Capitol and via capitol.org share it with many who are seeking general information about capitols. In our 2010 website upgrade and redesign we invested time and money in Search Engine Optimization for www.capitol.org. When [capitol](http://capitol.org) is typed into search engines, the Nebraska State Capitol is the one of the first entries in the search. NITC 7-104 would require us to change our website domain name to www.capitol.nebraska.gov and lose our very high visibility on the internet. Google will penalize us for forwarding the domain, and redirecting our URLs to a new URL will degrade our ranking in search engines.

Description of the agencies preferred solution

The Office of the Capitol Commission requests a waiver from the NITC 7-104 requirement to change our well established www.capitol.org 15 year domain name. Our preferred solution is to be allowed to continue our use of www.capitol.org into the future.

Additional Information and justification showing good cause for the waiver

The .org domains are widely accepted by the public as non-profit or public service websites and as such the Office of the Capitol Commission fits within this category as caretaker of the Capitol and keeper of the Capitol's web presence. We have built considerable equity in www.capitol.org and have been distributing this domain name for over 15 years via our publications and visitor information. OCC has invested our resources in establishing the domain name and the brand surrounding www.capitol.org. The www.capitol.org address is very easy for visitors and school children to remember.