



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 14, 2014

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Mr. Thomas E. Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We are writing to respectfully urge you to halt your consideration of any plan to impose antiquated regulation on the Internet, and to warn that implementation of such a plan will needlessly inhibit the creation of American private sector jobs, limit economic freedom and innovation, and threaten to derail one of our economy's most vibrant sectors. At a time when technology businesses need certainty to innovate, this is not the time for the FCC to engage in a counterproductive effort to even further regulate the Internet.

Private sector investment has been a cornerstone of broadband deployment, and imposing expansive network neutrality regulations would only serve to deter investment and stifle one of the brightest spots in our economy. The Commission was charged with promoting broadband investment and deployment to help incent our economy and create jobs. It responded, pursuant to Congress's instruction to leave the Internet "unfettered by federal or state regulation," by refusing to regulate broadband service as an old-fashioned Title II service and leaving the Internet minimally regulated. Our nation's deregulatory approach helped the private sector deploy broadband to 95 percent of U.S households, following hundreds of billions of dollars in investment. In 2013 alone, the private sector invested \$13 billion dollars, and is expected to match that investment annually for the foreseeable future. Broadband speeds increase exponentially each year, and consumers can now use their broadband service in thousands of new ways to access information, to engage with government, to make use of the many other innovative services available to consumers over the Internet.

Despite these successes, efforts to regulate the Internet as a utility under Title II are threatening to set back this progress and impose on broadband rules designed for the old-fashioned, monopoly-era phone service. Doing so would contradict a decade of FCC decisions under Democratic and Republican administrations and limit the freedom to innovate and create that has characterized the Internet since its inception. Investment experts advise that implementing such a scheme – or even considering regulating broadband as a

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Title II service – creates regulatory uncertainty that causes a reduction in the investment capital necessary for even greater broadband deployment. The FCC must correct this misstep and make clear its commitment to establishing a stable regulatory scheme that allows for investment and innovation.


The Internet was born, grew up, and became the engine of social, economic and political change that we know today without net neutrality rules. And, despite the distinctly international flavor of today's Internet, let us not forget that it is an American invention. We asked the world to take a leap of faith with us – to reject the idea that communications was inherently a state-owned enterprise or government-granted monopoly. Today, thousands of companies serve billions of people around the world and enable trillions of dollars of economic activity worldwide. As we continue to ask the world to keep their hands off the Internet and to allow people to freely engage with each other, we should lead by example and reject calls to return to a bygone model of network regulation.

Here at home, the FCC's agenda on net neutrality threatens to slow job creation and jeopardizes our economic recovery. It's not too late to reject the notion that we should regulate the Internet under Title II. The Commission should be focused on unleashing the full job-creating potential of the private sector, including the Internet, rather than stifling such growth through expansions of federal power.

Sincerely,


John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House


Kevin McCarthy
House Majority Whip


Eric Cantor
House Majority Leader


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
House Republican Conference Chair