

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 14, 2014

**494**

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As you develop a proposal to oversee access to the Internet, we urge you to adopt strong and enforceable open Internet rules that proactively protect Internet users from unfair practices, including the blockage of lawful traffic or discrimination among content providers by Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The rules must preserve the Internet as the open platform that it is today by recognizing our nation's communications providers as common carriers. Without strong protections, the Internet could devolve into a closed platform in which those who pay the most can overwhelm other views and ideas.

We agree with your previous statements and those from President Obama that expressed similar concerns. ISPs will continue to explore ways to boost revenue by imposing discriminatory charges that will decrease the openness of the Internet. There is ample evidence that protecting the open Internet against such threats is critical for users and businesses alike. However, reports indicate that the current FCC proposal creates an Internet fast lane that would prioritize some Internet traffic and allow ISPs to discriminate against everyone else. The FCC cannot protect the open Internet by allowing discrimination.

We urge the FCC to use its clear authority under Title II of the Communications Act to reclassify the transmission component of broadband Internet access as a telecommunications service. Recognizing our nation's communications providers as common carriers under the law is common sense. Reclassification would also complement the Commission's efforts to promote innovation, competition and investment in universally available, reliable and affordable broadband infrastructure.

Over one million people have already gone on the record in support of reclassification. We urge the FCC to consider this support for strong, enforceable open Internet rules as it moves forward with the rulemaking process.

Sincerely,



**Keith Ellison**  
Member of Congress



**Earl Blumenauer**  
Member of Congress



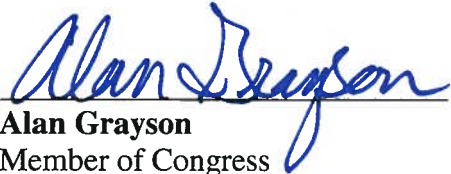
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**David N. Cicilline**  
Member of Congress



**Donna F. Edwards**  
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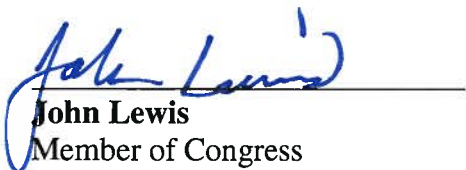
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**Mike Honda**  
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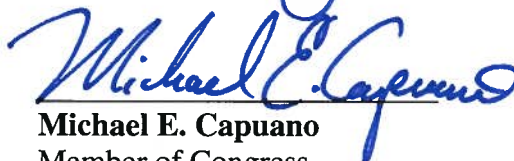
**Marcy Kaptur**  
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**John Lewis**  
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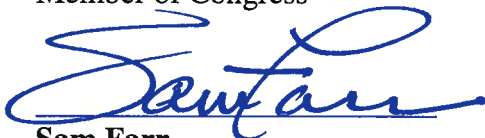
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**John Conyers, Jr.**  
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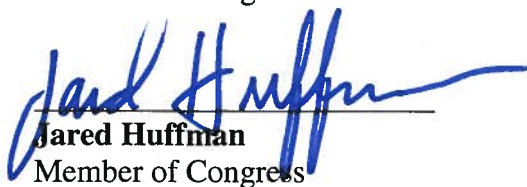
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**Sam Farr**  
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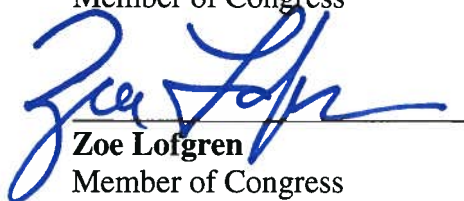
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**Jared Huffman**  
Member of Congress



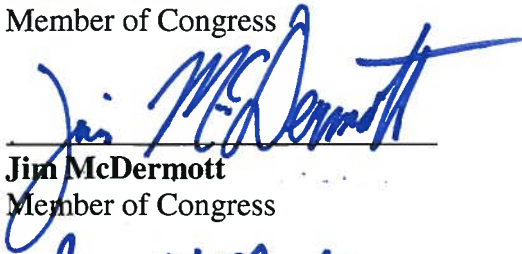
**Barbara Lee**  
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**Zoe Lofgren**  
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**Alan Lowenthal**  
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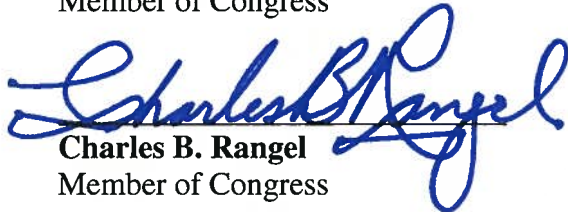
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**Beto O'Rourke**  
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**Charles B. Rangel**  
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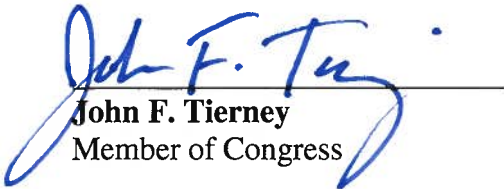
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**Bobby Scott**  
Member of Congress



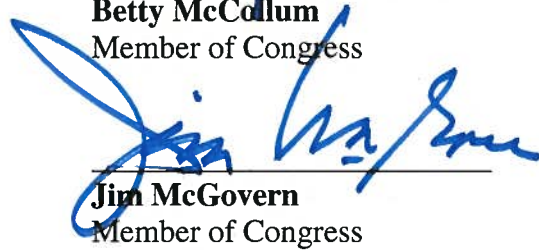
**Carol Shea-Porter**  
Member of Congress



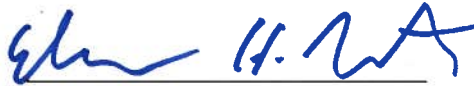
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Member of Congress



**Betty McCollum**  
Member of Congress



**Jim McGovern**  
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**Eleanor Holmes Norton**  
Member of Congress



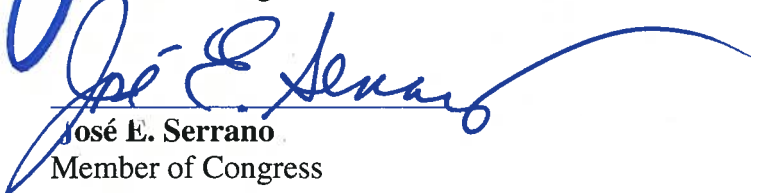
**Mark Pocan**  
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**Tim Ryan**  
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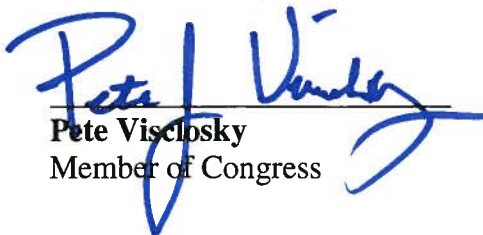
**Jan Schakowsky**  
Member of Congress



**José E. Serrano**  
Member of Congress



**Mark Takano**  
Member of Congress



**Pete Visclosky**  
Member of Congress

CC: Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
Michael O'Reilly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission