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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

June 6, 2014

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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565

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

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

Like many Americans, I have been closely following your efforts to protect an open Internet. Several weeks ago, I joined 35 of my colleagues in the House of Representatives on a letter urging you, and the rest of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), to consider using Title II of the Telecommunications Act to reclassify Internet service providers as common carriers, thus giving the FCC the ability to protect the open Internet. I joined with businesses, investors, nonprofit organizations, and individuals who contacted the FCC to express concerns about your proposal, and to encourage enforceable Net Neutrality rules. As the Representative for Silicon Valley, the innovation heart of the Internet, I invite you and the other FCC commissioners to visit my district and engage with the tech community as you consider how best to protect an open and free Internet.

Companies ranging from small start-ups to established corporations have cautioned you and the other commissioners that the proposal under consideration at the FCC could have significant negative impacts on their businesses. I share these concerns. The creation of any type of priority Internet fast lane, monitored only by a new and complex regulatory standard that the Commission has yet to develop, would stifle innovation and create a tiered, privileged Internet. Additionally, I share the concerns raised by nonprofits and advocacy groups about the impact your current proposal could have on free speech rights and online organizing.

During the May 15<sup>th</sup> Open Commission Meeting, Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel encouraged direct engagement with the public in light of the importance of this issue and the great interest in an open and free Internet. I strongly support their sentiments, and encourage you to visit Silicon Valley and meet with the businesses, entrepreneurs, and Internet users who will be impacted by any rules you ultimately put in place. The decisions facing the Commission are too important to our economy and civil society, to be informed only by those who have regular access to the FCC. I look forward to working with your office to arrange a public meeting between you, your fellow Commissioners, and my constituents. Your staff may contact Dr. Mark Mozena in my office at <a href="mark.mozena@mail.house.gov">mark.mozena@mail.house.gov</a> or (202) 225-2631 to discuss the details.

Sincerely,

Mike Honda

Member of Congress

Michael Monda