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December 13, 2017

Chairman Ajit V. Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to urge you to abandon your plan to rescind the FCC's net neutrality rules. Over the last two decades, the Internet has become essential for technological innovation, economic development, and freedom of expression both in Colorado and across the country. It has also become a powerful force in breaking cycles of poverty and inequality. As Commissioner Mignon Clyburn has said, "broadband is the greatest equalizer of our time."

The Open Internet rules that the FCC passed in 2015 prohibit broadband providers from blocking, slowing down, or charging more for the delivery of certain Internet content. By rescinding these rules, Internet service providers (ISPs) would be able to favor or discriminate against websites or online media by charging higher fees for access to faster network speeds or premium content. This would undermine the fundamental promise of the Internet, which has enabled economic growth and entrepreneurship, as well as the free exchange of ideas essential to our democracy.

The FCC has a role to play to ensure that promise. Even under the Bush-era FCC, then-FCC chair Michael Powell gave a speech in Boulder, Colorado in 2004 declaring the "Four Internet Freedoms": freedom to access content; freedom to use applications; freedom to attach personal devices; and freedom to obtain service plan information. The Bush Administration later codified these basic rules as regulations. Your proposal threatens to eliminate the FCC's oversight role that has been in place for decades under both Democratic and Republican presidents.

A free and open internet has become a key component of our democracy, economy, and pursuit of a more equal society. As a regulatory body, the FCC has a responsibility to protect the standards that make it possible for our communities to thrive in the 21st Century.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator