

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 11, 2017

# 1057

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to urge you to abandon your ill-conceived and rash plan to dismantle the strong and robust net neutrality rules that have fueled the growth of our \$1 trillion internet economy. The internet economy is now over 7% of US GDP and employs almost 7 million people.<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, the internet economy has grown faster than any other sector in the U.S., having boosted employment while many other industries in the U.S. were shedding jobs in the last economic downturn. It is undisputed that our strong, robust open internet drove this tremendous economic growth.

The mission of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is to promote the use and deployment of communications in the public interest, and the job of the FCC Chairman is to make sure that mission is being carried out. Undoing the existing strong net neutrality rules will harm our economy and is the **exact opposite** of the FCC's mission to protect the public interest and promote access to networks.

Weakening the internet economy will be particularly harmful to the economy of Washington state. The internet economy is responsible for 13% of Washington state's economic output. A quarter of a million jobs in Washington state depend on the continued good health and vibrancy of our internet economy.<sup>2</sup>

The "App Economy," which consists of everybody who makes money and has a job thanks to mobile apps powered by an open internet, is another example of the power of the internet economy made possible by the existing net neutrality rules. Today, 1.7 million Americans have jobs because of the App Economy. Nearly 92,000 of those jobs are in Washington state.<sup>3</sup>

The FCC's proper stewardship of our communications networks is more important than ever for continued job growth stemming from the booming internet economy.

On behalf of all Washingtonians and the consumers and innovators who rely on toll free access to a free and open internet, we strongly urge you to make the right decision and stand up for the consumers you committed to protect when you took your oath of office.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cyberstates.org/>

<sup>2</sup> *Id* at page 62.

<sup>3</sup> [https://actonline.org/wp-content/uploads/App\\_Economy\\_Report\\_2017\\_Digital.pdf](https://actonline.org/wp-content/uploads/App_Economy_Report_2017_Digital.pdf)



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress