

December 13, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write today in support of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) plan to restore Internet freedom by reversing the prior Commission's decision to regulate broadband Internet service under Title II of the Communications Act, a statutory scheme created for the monopoly telephone carriers of a bygone era. This proposal is a major step forward in the effort to clear the way for the substantial investment necessary to advance our Internet architecture for the next generation and close the digital divide. When its effects are fully realized, more Americans than ever will experience the benefits of telemedicine, distance learning, streaming video, and future innovations made possible by broadband.

Additionally, we note that under your leadership, the FCC and the American people have enjoyed an unprecedented level of transparency as you work toward this goal. Since March 2017, for the first time in the history of the Commission, you have made every document to be considered at a FCC open meeting available for public review three weeks ahead of the vote. As a result, unlike in previous high profile Commission proceedings, the public has been fully empowered with the actual language of the proposal under consideration. The Commission, therefore, has the benefit of the most informed and complete commentary ever compiled in a net neutrality proceeding.

The record is exhaustive, every viewpoint is well represented, and the time has come for the Commission to act. After broadband is restored to its rightful regulatory home, under the light-touch approach that guided federal oversight of the Internet and nurtured its expansive growth for decades, the stage will be set for Congress to determine how best to enact permanent protections for the bipartisan net neutrality principles on which we all agree.

Sincerely,

Greg Walden

Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology

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Brygg Harper MS-3

Brett Guthrie KY-2

Bill Johnson OH-6

Jeff Duncan SC-3

Earl L. Kelly Carter GA-1

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Minu Kautley CA-45

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