

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Pai and Senators Thune and Nelson,

Protecting net neutrality is crucial to ensuring that the internet remains a central driver of economic growth and opportunity, job creation, education, free expression, and civic organizing for everyone. The principles of net neutrality – that all data on the internet should be treated equally, and internet service providers (ISPs) should not discriminate or provide preference to any data, regardless of its source, content, or destination – are the foundation that has made the internet the engine of opportunity it is today. The continuation of net neutrality is essential to the continued growth of the country and to ensuring access to social, political, and economic empowerment for all.

In 2015, millions of people made their support for net neutrality clear in comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) supporting the Open Internet Order. The order, which reclassified broadband internet under Title II, enshrined the principles of net neutrality in law, and gave the FCC the authority to enforce it. As a result, broadband providers cannot block users' access to content, slow down connections to services, or charge for speedier delivery of preferred content.

Since the order went into effect, broadband infrastructure investment is up, ISP revenues are at record highs, and businesses continue developing innovative ideas and offerings. A [2016 report](#) found that the total capital expenditures of ISPs increased by 4 percent and that total revenues increased by 5 percent from 2014 to 2015. Moreover, we consistently see businesses innovate and create new ways to provide fresh content and better services to consumers.

**We, the undersigned organizations, representing a diverse group of consumer, media, technology, library, arts, civil liberties, and civil rights advocates and content creators, urge you and your colleagues to oppose legislation and regulatory actions that would threaten net neutrality and roll back the important protections put in place by the FCC in 2015, and to continue to enforce the Open Internet Order as it stands.**

Net neutrality supports and protects these basic values:

- **Competition:** Net neutrality helps to ensure that all companies, from small startups to larger companies, have equal access to consumers online. It allows companies to fairly compete for customers within their market and incentivizes the development of new services and tools for consumers. This competition is the engine of the U.S. economy, and should be promoted.
- **Innovation:** Net neutrality makes it possible for new companies and new technologies to emerge and ensures that broadband providers do not create undue burdens and cost barriers that can harm small businesses and undermine job growth.
- **Free Speech:** Net neutrality ensures that everyone with access to the internet can organize and share their opinions online equally, a key safeguard for our democracy. It ensures that ISPs are not arbiters of speech and expression online by favoring particular forums or providing enhanced access to specific content and audiences.
- **Equality of Access:** Net neutrality ensures that access to websites and content is based on individual preferences. This means content creators are not forced to pay ISPs for content distribution in order to reach consumers. It also means that end users are able to access all the content they desire without restrictions from ISPs. This allows all people in the U.S. to access essential healthcare services, educational resources, and employment opportunities and the freedom to choose from the full spectrum of online content. It means that a small church staffed by volunteers has the same opportunity to reach the public as a large media corporation with an unlimited budget. At a time when there is bipartisan agreement in Congress that we must increase internet access to all people and bridge the digital divide, the quality of this access is just as essential.

In order to promote continued economic, social, and political growth and innovation, it is imperative that the internet remain open and accessible to all people in the future. We strongly urge you and your colleagues to protect the free and open internet and the benefits it provides to for all people.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org

Access Humboldt

Access Now

Access Sonoma Broadband

act.tv

Akaku Maui Community Media

Alliance of South Asians Taking Action

Allied Media Projects

Alternate ROOTS

American Association of Law Libraries

American Civil Liberties Union

American Folklore Society

American Library Association

Appalshop, Inc.

Arts & Democracy

Asamblea de Derechos Civiles

Association of American University Presses

Association of Research Libraries

Benton Foundation

Bill of Rights Defense Committee/Defending Dissent Foundation

Brattleboro Community Television, Brattleboro VT

Brown Boi Project

California Center for Rural Policy

CASH Music

Center for Democracy & Technology

Center for Digital Democracy

Center for Media & Democracy - Burlington VT

Center for Media and Democracy

Center for Media Justice

Center for Popular Democracy

Center for Rural Strategies

Central Appalachia Regional Network

Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice

Civic Hall

Color Of Change

Common Cause

Common Frequency  
Consumers Union  
Courage Campaign  
CREDO  
Daily Kos  
Dance/USA  
Demand Progress  
Democracy for America  
Dignity and Power Now  
Easton Community Access Television  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights  
Engine  
EveryLibrary  
FAIR  
Faithful Internet  
Fight for the Future  
Forward Together  
Fractured Atlas  
Free Press  
Free Speech Coalition  
FREE! Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment  
Future of Music Coalition  
Generation Justice  
Global Action Project  
Greater Northshire Access Television  
Greenlining Institute  
Greenpeace USA

Hardwick Community Television, Inc.  
Highlander Research and Education Center  
Hollaback!  
Hollow Earth Radio  
Hope Community/SPEAC  
Illinois Campaign for Prison Phone Justice  
Institute for Local Self-Reliance  
Iraq Veterans Against the War  
Kingdom Access Television  
KPPP-LP 88.1 FM Radio  
KRSM - The Southside Media Project  
Lake Champlain Access Television  
League of American Orchestras  
Line Break Media  
Mad River Valley Television, Inc.  
Making Contact  
Martinez Street Women's Center  
May First People Link  
Media Action Center  
Media Action Grassroots Network  
Media Alliance  
Media Mobilizing Project  
MediaVox  
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation  
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice  
MomsRising.org  
Movement Strategy Center  
MoveOn.org Civic Action

Museums and the Web

National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP)

National Coalition Against Censorship

National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients

National Digital Inclusion Alliance

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Economic & Social Rights Initiative (NESRI)

National Federation of Community Broadcasters

National Guestworker Alliance

National Hispanic Media Coalition

National Organization for Women

National Performance Network & Visual Artists Network

Native Public Media

Netroots Nation

New America's Open Technology Institute

New Music USA

New Orleans Workers Center for Racial Justice

Open Access Connections

Open MIC (Open Media and Information Companies Initiative)

OpenMedia

OpenTheGovernment.org

Opera America

Other Worlds

Other98

OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

PEN America

People's Action

People's Press Project

Performing Arts Alliance  
PhillyCAM  
Popular Resistance  
Presente.org  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Progressive Technology Project  
Prometheus Radio Project  
Public Knowledge  
Race Forward  
Racial Justice Action Center  
Rewire  
Right To The City Alliance  
RootsAction.org  
RYSE Center  
Southerners On New Ground  
SouthWest Organizing Project  
SPNN  
Stop LAPD Spying Coalition  
Student Power Networks  
SumOfUs  
Sunlight Foundation  
The Alliance for Media Arts and Culture  
The Authors Guild  
The Harry Potter Alliance  
The Media Consortium  
The Nation  
The People's Press Project  
Theatre Communications Group

TURN–The Utility Reform Network  
U.S. Department of Arts and Culture  
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.  
United Plant Savers  
United We Dream  
Urban Librarians Unite  
Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center  
Virginia Rural Health Association  
Voices for Racial Justice  
VOTE MOB  
WAFLS  
WFNU-LP Frogtown Community Radio (Frogtown Neighborhood Association)  
Within Our Lifetime  
WITNESS  
WNC Communities  
Women, Action, and the Media  
Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press  
Women's Media Center  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
Working Narratives  
Writers Guild of America, West  
X-Lab  
Young Women United