

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As you develop a proposal to oversee access to the Internet, we urge you to adopt strong and enforceable open Internet rules that proactively protect Internet users from unfair practices, including the blockage of lawful traffic or discrimination among content providers by Internet Service Providers (ISPs). The rules must preserve the Internet as the open platform that it is today by recognizing our nation's communications providers as common carriers. Without strong protections, the Internet could devolve into a closed platform in which those who pay the most can overwhelm other views and ideas.

We agree with your previous statements and those from President Obama that expressed similar concerns. ISPs will continue to explore ways to boost revenue by imposing discriminatory charges that will decrease the openness of the Internet. There is ample evidence that protecting the open Internet against such threats is critical for users and businesses alike. However, reports indicate that the current FCC proposal creates an Internet fast lane that would prioritize some Internet traffic and allow ISPs to discriminate against everyone else. The FCC cannot protect the open Internet by allowing discrimination.

We urge the FCC to use its clear authority under Title II of the Communications Act to reclassify the transmission component of broadband Internet access as a telecommunications service. Recognizing our nation's communications providers as common carriers under the law is common sense. Reclassification would also complement the Commission's efforts to promote innovation, competition and investment in universally available, reliable and affordable broadband infrastructure.

Over one million people have already gone on the record in support of reclassification. We urge the FCC to consider this support for strong, enforceable open Internet rules as it moves forward with the rulemaking process.

Sincerely,



Keith Ellison
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



André D. Carson
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress



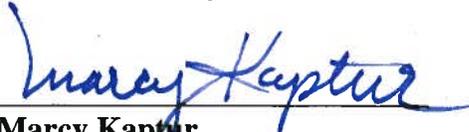
Donna F. Edwards
Member of Congress



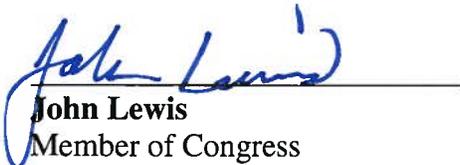
Alan Grayson
Member of Congress



Mike Honda
Member of Congress



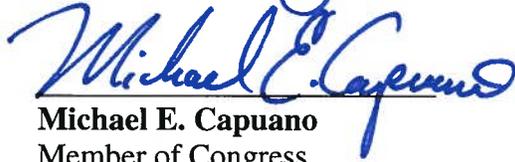
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



John Lewis
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Raúl M. Grijalva
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Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress



John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



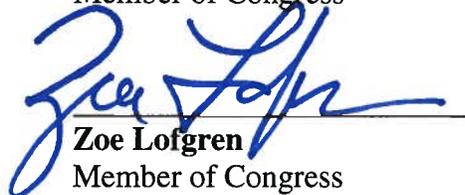
Rush Holt
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Alan Lowenthal
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CC: Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
Michael O'Reilly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission