



December 13, 2017

Chairman John Thune
Senate Commerce Committee
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Bill Nelson
Senate Commerce Committee
425 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Greg Walden
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Frank Pallone Jr.
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Member Pallone,

We write urging you to pass bipartisan net neutrality legislation.

In a truly competitive market these rules would be largely unnecessary and redundant. Unfortunately, government restrictions have made internet infrastructure increasingly anti-competitive, with consumers frequently facing a local monopoly or duopoly of choice regarding their internet provider.

In light of the existing regulatory landscape, like the majority of Americans, we support net neutrality: the idea that large networks and platforms should not block, throttle, or unfairly discriminate against internet traffic. These basic rules of the road are needed to ensure fairness, transparency and competition.

The FCC recently initiated the process to reverse the Title II reclassification, ending 1930s public utility style regulation of internet infrastructure enacted by the previous chairman. Currently, the Title II approach remains mired in litigation and is deeply divisive. Rather than relitigate these controversies, we strongly support a legislative solution that can provide the effective and enduring protections the internet requires.

Congress alone has the power to secure an open internet and establish the core tenets of net neutrality. You and your colleagues can end years of regulatory uncertainty, provide lasting protection for everyone who uses the modern internet, and ensure free and open competition without the baggage of outdated and controversial Title II requirements.

In 2010, the Obama administration, through former Chairman Julius Genachowski, adopted net neutrality rules to prevent unfair and uncompetitive practices such as blocking, throttling, and invidious use of discriminatory “fast-lanes” intended to thwart competition [[FCC Open Internet Order 2010](#)]. The tech community found them satisfactory, most broadband providers were prepared to abide by them, and the rules had considerable bipartisan support in Congress. The principles in the 2010 rules, which also form the foundation of the 2015 rules, could provide the framework for bipartisan consensus today.

By codifying principles that have been in the public forum for some time, Congress can ensure that existing investments in internet infrastructure are not unduly burdened. Congressional action would also signal to potential investors that they can invest with confidence, knowing that the basic rules are now firmly established.

For these reasons, we believe bipartisan legislation on this important issue is necessary to maintain our leadership role within the global innovation economy.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

David Arcara
Cofounder, Laconia Capital Group

Evan Baehr
Cofounder, Able

Katia Beauchamp
CEO, Birchbox

Jeffrey Bussgang
Cofounder, Flybridge Capital Partners

Sergio Catanzariti
Director, Network Architecture, formerly at Orange

Sam Corcos
Cofounder, CarDash

Jonathan DeGooyer
VP, Marin Software Incorporated

Jim Ellis
Lecturer, Stanford Graduate School of Business

Zach Ferres
CEO, Coplex

Aaron Ginn
Cofounder, Lincoln Network

Randy Hucks
Founder and CEO, Silicon Bay Partners

Garrett Johnson
Cofounder, SendHub

Kurt Keilhacker
Founding Partner, Elementum Ventures

JT Kostman
CEO & Chief Data Scientist, Applied AI

Vasu Kulkarni
Managing Partner, Courtside Ventures

Chris Lien
CEO, Marin Software Incorporated

Joe Lonsdale
Partner, 8VC

Joe Malchow
Cofounder, PubliR

Julian Martinez
COO/Marketing Director, MaestroConference

Ben Patterson
General Partner, Elementum Ventures

Nick Schrock
Director of Engineering, formerly at Facebook

Trae Stephens
Partner, Founders Fund

Russ Yelton
President, Yelton and Associates