

August 11, 2010

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC GN Docket No. 10-127, Framework for Broadband Internet Service  
FCC GN Docket No. 09-191, Preserving the Open Internet

Dear Mr. President and Chairman Genachowski,

We the undersigned are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Title II reclassification of broadband and new, overly restrictive Network Neutrality regulations.

Proponents of this new, heavy-handed regulatory regime speak often of an Internet free of “gatekeepers” being essential to economic innovation, job creation, free speech and democratic participation.

But thus far, the only two examples of Net Neutrality violation were halted without the FCC having Title II regulatory authority. In fact, in the most prominent case, the parties involved – Comcast and BitTorrent – were already working together to reach a resolution before the FCC even began to take action.

The system works. Very well. Even BitTorrent has concluded that “innovation and collaboration with ISPs where all parties participated in some self-regulation was a more ideal approach than heavy-handed policy.”

This new, stricter regulatory regime would also prevent useful, beneficial service choices that help consumers and content providers, as well as incentivize broadband deployment.

Free Press, MoveOn, Color of Change and others recently signed a letter supporting Title II reclassification, in which they describe Net Neutrality as “openness” vital to their success as organizers, activists and bloggers.

But these groups have been all along benefiting from the openness of the Internet in unfettered fashion for free speech and democratic participation - unimpeded by the “gatekeepers” they say will shut them down, and without the new Net Neutrality regulations they seek to see implemented.

And there is absolutely no reason to believe that will change. We oppose very harsh, very real regulations to address merely speculative problems. That will do very real harm to network innovation - and openness.

Mr. President, you ran for our nation’s highest office as a Net Neutrality proponent. And you appointed another in FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski. For the first eighteen months, your Administration worked and met almost solely with Net Neutrality advocates. Just this year there have been more than thirty meetings between FCC officials and Net Neutrality proponents.

But we are heartened by the recent talk of a reasonable outcome on this crucial issue, and by reports of some meetings between FCC officials and Internet provider representatives – meetings also (rightly) attended by many Net Neutrality proponents.

The atmosphere for a reasonable outcome is further bolstered by the bipartisan opposition in Congress to the FCC's current proposed Title II reclassification.

We sincerely hope that you will reconsider your support of these more restrictive Net Neutrality regulations, and instead choose to work with all stakeholders to reach a reasonable, workable solution. As Paul Misener of Amazon.com has said, "there is now a real opportunity for an outcome in which network operators, consumers, and content providers all would be better off than they are today. This would be a win-win-win result, without compromise."

The best move for all Americans is to forgo restrictive Net Neutrality regulations - and instead allow the system of "innovation and collaboration" to continue. The system that has created the dynamic, creative and open Internet we currently enjoy. The system that everybody from BitTorrent to Amazon.com to we, the undersigned, can support.

Sincerely,

Jim Martin  
Chairman  
60 Plus Association

Ed Morrissey  
HotAir.com

Susan Carleson  
President  
American Civil Rights Union

Michelle Malkin  
Syndicated Columnist  
MichelleMalkin.com

Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson  
Founder and President  
BOND Action

Erick Erickson  
RedState.com

Larry Cirignano  
Catholic Citizen

Neil Stevens  
RedState.com

Brian Jennings  
Author, *Censorship*  
Thirty-Year Radio Executive

William Greene, Ph.D.  
President  
RightMarch.com

Norman Kurland, J.D.  
President  
Center for Economic and Social Justice

Rob Port  
SayAnything.com

Martha Zoller  
Radio Talk Show Host  
The Georgia News Network

Roger Hedgecock  
Syndicated Radio Talk Show Host

CC: FCC Commissioner Michael Copps  
FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
FCC Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell  
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid  
Senate Commerce Committee Chair Jay Rockefeller  
Senate Commerce Committee Ranking Member Kay Bailey Hutchison  
House Commerce Committee Chair Henry Waxman  
House Commerce Committee Ranking Member Joe Barton  
Senate CTI Subcommittee Chair John Kerry  
Senate CTI Subcommittee Ranking Member John Ensign  
House CTI Subcommittee Chair Rick Boucher  
House CTI Subcommittee Ranking Member Cliff Stearns