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RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
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December 4, 2017

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The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to you to respectfully express my concern with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) recently released plan that repeals the FCC's net neutrality rules. As you know, these crucial rules prohibit Internet Service Providers (ISPs) from stopping or delaying the delivery of websites, and they also prohibit them from charging consumers more money for high-quality streaming. Access to the Internet is an increasingly important part of our daily lives, and I am troubled that this change would give ISPs broad powers to determine what websites and online services their customers can see and use.

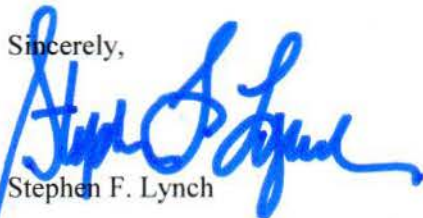
The Internet is one of the most critical tools in our 21st century economy as it opens the door to global innovation, revolutionizes the way we communicate with each other, how we receive information, and how we do business. Without net neutrality, ISPs would be able to interfere with consumer access to the Internet by manipulating data transfer speeds or censoring information outright.

Taking away net neutrality gives broadband companies control over which websites and services consumers can access. The government should not be handing power to major ISPs at the expense of public access to information. As such, I urge you to retain the FCC's existing net neutrality rules.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Jaclyn Cahan on my staff at [Jaclyn.Cahan@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jaclyn.Cahan@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-8273. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,



Stephen F. Lynch

Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

April 19, 2018

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2268 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lynch:

Thank you for your letter regarding the *Restoring Internet Freedom Order*, which reestablished the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to oversee the network management practices of Internet service providers while returning to the light-touch legal framework that governed such practices for almost twenty years.

At the dawn of the commercial Internet in 1996, President Clinton and a Republican Congress agreed that it would be the policy of the United States "to preserve the vibrant and competitive free market that presently exists for the Internet . . . unfettered by Federal or State regulation." This bipartisan policy worked. Encouraged by light-touch regulation, the private sector invested over \$1.5 trillion to build fixed and mobile networks throughout the United States. Innovators and entrepreneurs grew startups into global giants. America's Internet economy became the envy of the world.

Then, in early 2015, the FCC jettisoned this successful, bipartisan approach to the Internet and decided to subject the Internet to utility-style regulation designed in the 1930s to govern Ma Bell. This decision was a mistake. For one thing, there was no problem to solve. The Internet wasn't broken in 2015. We weren't living in a digital dystopia. To the contrary, the Internet had been a stunning success.

Not only was there no problem, this "solution" hasn't worked. The main complaint consumers have about the Internet is not and has never been that their Internet service provider is blocking access to content. It's that they don't have access at all or enough competition between providers. The 2015 regulations have taken us in the opposite direction from these consumer preferences. Under Title II, annual investment in high-speed networks declined by billions of dollars—the first time that such investment has gone down outside of a recession in the Internet era. And our recent Broadband Deployment Report shows that the pace of both fixed and mobile broadband deployment declined dramatically in the two years following the *Title II Order*.

Returning to the legal framework that governed the Internet from President Clinton's pronouncement in 1996 until 2015 is not going to destroy the Internet. It is not going to end the Internet as we know it. It is not going to undermine the free exchange of ideas or the fundamental truth that the Internet is the greatest free market success story of our lifetimes.



By returning to the light-touch Title I framework, we are helping consumers and promoting competition. Broadband providers will have stronger incentives to build networks, especially in unserved areas, and to upgrade networks to gigabit speeds and 5G. This means there will be more competition among broadband providers. It also means more ways that companies of all kinds and sizes can deliver applications and content to more users. In short, it's a freer and more open Internet.

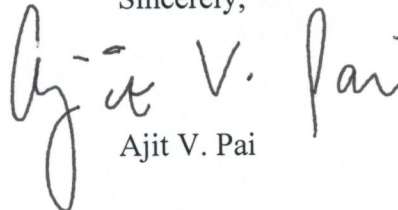
The *Restoring Internet Freedom Order* also promotes more robust transparency among ISPs than existed three years ago. It requires ISPs to disclose a variety of business practices, and the failure to do so subjects them to enforcement action. This transparency rule will ensure that consumers know what they're buying and that startups get information they need as they develop new products and services.

Moreover, we reestablish the Federal Trade Commission's authority to ensure that consumers and competition are protected. Two years ago, the *Title II Order* stripped the FTC of its jurisdiction over broadband providers by deeming them all Title II "common carriers." But now we are putting our nation's premier consumer protection cop back on the beat.

In sum, Americans will still be able to access the websites they want to visit. They will still be able to enjoy the services they want to enjoy. There will still be regulation and regulators guarding a free and open Internet. This is the way things were prior to 2015, and this is the way they will be in the future.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai