

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of

Restoring Internet Freedom

)
)
)
)

) WC Docket No. 17-108

REPLY COMMENTS OF THE FILIPINA WOMEN’S NETWORK

August 30, 2017

The Filipina Women's Network ("FWN") hereby submits these comments to the Restoring Internet Freedom docket (WC Docket No. 17-108). This filing, in reply to our initial comments submitted on July 14, 2017, is based upon further examination of the issues brought forward in the Federal Communication Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as well as the comments of other parties.

It has been the mission of FWN to give our community a stronger voice and create a network in which the sisterhood of Filipina women may engage with each other, develop their careers, and share ideas and stories with the world. One of the main components of our organization's mission involves free and open communication. With each passing year, access to the internet becomes more crucial to fulfilling this component. We rely heavily on social media, messaging apps, and real-time news over the internet generally to keep far-flung members of FWN informed on issues that affect us, as well as organize and empower our members. That is why it is absolutely necessary for internet access to continue expanding, and for net neutrality principles, like no throttling or blocking, to be guaranteed. But in order for this to happen, we need codified laws and transparent regulation.

FWN is greatly encouraged by the level of engagement on this issue, and it gives us hope to see how many individuals and organizations have taken an intense interest in the future of internet regulation. However, we have grave concerns about the issues brought forward in the Federal Communication Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, as well as the comments of other parties.

As we stated in our original filing, we are concerned with the FCC's 2015 decision to reclassify Internet Service Providers ("ISPs") as Title II common carriers. It is

particularly troubling that this type of regulation has had a negative impact on investment in broadband expansion, and therefore a negative impact on the expansion of broadband networks on which members of our community rely. The “light-touch” regulatory environment in place prior to the 2015 Order helped foster the growth of the internet since its infancy, and we still believe that this type of regulatory environment should stay in place. The overreaching, complicated nature of Title II regulation is unnecessary and harmful to small and large ISPs alike.

The Filipina Women’s Network also stands by our belief that net neutrality principles are necessary for a flourishing internet economy, and we are glad to see such broad support in the docket for protecting these principles. In addition, we believe net neutrality principles are necessary to protect the freedoms Americans currently enjoy online. We hope that ultimately Congress will pass bipartisan legislation that solidifies the principles of net neutrality while also allowing ISPs the freedom to invest, and entrepreneurs the freedom to innovate. We look forward to seeing a fair resolution in the future.