November 17, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 Twelfth Street SW

Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Notice of Written *Ex Parte* presentation in Restoring Internet Freedom, WC Docket No. 17-108**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In a review of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) filings, at least 26 publicly-traded companies that depend on their customers' continued and unimpeded access to the Internet identify potential harms if the Commission eliminates or narrows the 2015 Open Internet rules as contemplated in the above proceeding. (For relevant excerpts of these filings please see Appendix.)

The filings show that these companies are materially concerned with the significant and increasing market power of wireline and wireless broadband internet access service (BIAS) providers. The filings state that without strong, enforceable Open Internet rules, these companies believe that BIAS providers will:

* Restrict or prohibit use of their infrastructure;
* Interfere with lawful content and/or services;
* Block, degrade or charge for access to, or bandwidth use of, certain products and services;
* Impose onerous restrictions on the customers’ ability to use services;
* Favor their own content or services over that of other companies;
* Deliver unaffiliated content with less speed, reliability or otherwise on a non-neutral basis as compared to other market participants;
* Reduce the quality of their service by degrading the quality of the data packets they transmit over their networks, giving some companies’ packets low priority while giving their own packets or those of affiliates higher priority, or blocking packets entirely;
* Impede the offering of new services; and
* Impose higher fees for priority access to customers.

If changes to the Commission’s Open Internet rules allow such practices, these companies report to their shareholders that the changes will result in the following harms:

* These companies will experience discrimination and anticompetitive behavior;
* Additional operating expenses;
* Increased costs to consumers for BIAS and, thereby, depressed demand for these companies’ services;
* Decreased ability to sell existing services;
* A loss of existing users;
* Impaired ability to attract new users; and
* Negative consequences on revenue, growth, financial conditions, and cash flow.

Generally, the filings demonstrate that these companies–many of which are household names, employing thousands of Americans–are concerned that any changes to the Commission’s Open Internet rules will adversely affect the growth, popularity, or use of the internet.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Taglang

Executive Editor

Benton Foundation