



The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Restoring Internet Freedom Comments (WC Docket No. 17-108)

Dear FCC Chairman Ajit Pai,

On behalf of the California Association of School Business Officials, we are writing to express the Associations' opposition to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) proposal to roll back its existing strong net neutrality rules based on Title II of the Communications Act. We urge you to maintain the existing rules instead.

Technology can be found at the center of nearly all the curricula, learning goals and objectives we use in schools today. If the FCC votes to roll back the existing rules, school districts could be priced out completely of having good internet service, be stuck with internet service with a slow connection or connection could slow down to the point where they would not even be able to access it. Although the current FCC proposal suggests that providers could be up-front about their efforts to treat their types of content differently, school districts may not have any choice but to accept it. Most district only have one available internet provider. The majority of those are in rural areas because there is no competition available. This will have a greater effect on schools with high percentages of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, a typical marker of poverty, which tend to lack service at higher rates than those at more affluent schools.

In addition, K-12 companies that provide online educational resources are charged significantly more by internet providers to deliver content. Those companies may end up passing those higher costs on to school districts. Startup education companies capable of bringing new ideas to K-12 may also get squeezed out of the market if internet service providers favor big content providers that can pay more.

We urge you to maintain strong net neutrality rules and focus on policies that lower the barriers to the deployment of new networks, encouraging more competition in Internet access services. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

CEO and Executive Director
California Association of School Business Officials