

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-248

**In Support of Equality of Internet Access (Net Neutrality) and
Regulation of the Internet as a Public Utility under Title II of the Federal
Communications Act**

WHEREAS, use of the internet for communication, business, school, and entertainment purposes is ubiquitous, and access to the internet has become a necessity for Americans everywhere - nowhere more so than in Tompkins County, New York, and

WHEREAS, in the 1960s and 1970s the United States government funded the research and technology to create the Internet, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) put in place regulations that ensure equal access to the internet, a concept known as “net neutrality”. The net neutrality principle means that internet service providers (ISPs) such as Verizon, Time Warner Cable, AT&T, Comcast, and Charter cannot discriminate among different kinds of web traffic or different websites or applications by, for example, making some websites load faster, or charging more money to access certain sites, and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the FCC also classified broadband internet access as a public utility under Title II of the Federal Communications Act, clarifying that it, like telephone service or a public water supply provides a basic public service. Prior to 2015, it was regulated under Title I as simply an “information service”, and

WHEREAS in November 2017, Ajit Pai, the new Chair of the FCC and a former corporate lawyer for Verizon (a company he now regulates), announced that on December 14 the FCC will vote to place the Internet under Title I, thereby doing away with net neutrality, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Legislature has a duty to provide for the welfare of its residents, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Legislature, on behalf of all of its residents, hereby goes on record in strong support of net neutrality and in opposition to FCC Chair Pai’s desire to deregulate the Internet by placing it under Title I of the Federal Communications Act.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
COUNTY OF TOMPKINS)

Catherine Coert, Clerk
Tompkins County Legislature