



Submitted via ECFS

November 14, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 14-28; *In the Matter of Framework for the Open Internet* GN Docket 10-127;

Ms. Dortch:

On November 12, 2014, former FCC Commissioner and Common Cause Special Adviser Michael Copps and Program Director Todd O'Boyle met with Chairman Wheeler and Legal Advisor Daniel Alvarez on the matter of the above referenced proceeding.

Commissioner Copps stressed the historic nature of the Open Internet proceeding, which is likely to define the success or failure of the Commission, as currently comprised. He emphasized Common Cause's view that reclassification under Title II affords the Commission the best, and in fact only, mechanism for legally-sustainable rules that prevent blocking and discrimination. These foundational network neutrality principles safeguard innovation and free expression online. Further, Common Cause supports extending these protections to mobile customers (so-called "mobile parity," also under Title II.)

Common Cause staff made clear that any Open Internet rules under Title I, or a hybrid approach, would invite adverse judicial reaction, discourage investment, and stifle innovation. The Internet has transformed American democracy, and Common Cause is particularly concerned about the chilling impacts weakly-constituted rules could have on the ability of the electorate to inform and organize itself.

However, Common Cause supports the Commission's use of its Section 706 authority in other areas, such as to pre-empt state policies that limit municipal broadband.

Finally, Commissioner Copps explained that forbearance affords the Commission the flexibility it needs to tailor flexible, and light-touch regulation to meet the needs of a dynamic, innovative technological marketplace.

I am available to discuss these matters at (202) 736-5797.

Respectfully,

Todd O'Boyle
Common Cause

CC: Daniel Alvarez