

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
20024 Washington, DC
14-28: Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet
10-127: In the Matter of Framework for Broadband Internet Service

November 20, 2014

Dear Chair Tom Wheeler and Commissioners Mignon Clyburn and
Jessica Rosenworcel,

As a new generation of civil rights organizations and leaders who represent the rural and urban poor, immigrants, and communities of color, we urge you to swiftly adopt enforceable network neutrality rules that prevent discrimination online. Now is the right time to equally protect the digital voice and rights of the nation's most vulnerable communities—whether they access the Internet from a computer, a phone, or a tablet.

On Monday, November 10th 2014, President Obama urged the Federal Communications Commission to reclassify broadband as a common carrier service under Title II of the Communications Act, coupled with strong, bright-line net neutrality rules. Bright-line rules provide certainty to the market, keep the costs of regulation low, and limit FCC overreach.

We are concerned by press reports that the FCC—instead of standing with the President, policy experts, and almost 4 million people to support strong network neutrality rules—is instead considering dangerous “hybrid” rules that would destroy the open Internet as we know it.

Commissioners, we urge you to stand with the President and adopt a plan to reclassify Internet service providers as common carriers. This would give the Commission the authority it needs to adopt enforceable rules that ban ISPs from discriminating against, or blocking, our content online.

Protecting an open and non-discriminatory Internet is critical for the health and well-being of communities of color and low-income families. The fight for an open Internet is not just about broadband access and corporate investment; it is also a fight for real representation for the most vulnerable constituencies in the United States.

The open Internet has given our communities the rare opportunity to ensure our stories are told accurately, in our own voices. From job applications, healthcare, and entrepreneurship to the management of federal benefits, immigration status and online education—communities of color and low-income families rely on the open Internet to meet our basic needs.

Commissioners, we respectfully, but passionately, urge you to stand with the President and the people to propose the strongest network neutrality rules available. Now is the time to reclassify broadband as a common carrier under Title II, with equal protections for users of fixed and mobile broadband. When it comes to preventing online discrimination and protecting our Internet freedom, there is no room for compromise or delay.

Respectfully,

18 Million Rising
Access Humbolt
Alliance for a Just Society
Alliance of South Asians Taking Action
Allied Media Projects
Alternate ROOTS
Angry Asian Man
API Equality - Northern California
Appalshop
Arts and Democracy Project
Asamblea de Derechos Civiles
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Black Alliance for Just Immigration
Black Excellence Project
Boulder Community Broadcast Association
Brown & Green: South Asians for Climate Justice
Brown Boi Project
Brown Paper Tickets
Center for Media Justice
Center for Rural Strategies
Center for Social Inclusion
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Color of Change
Common Cause
Common Frequency
Community Technology Network
Concerned Citizens for Justice
Council on American-Islamic Relations
CREDO
Dignity and Power Now
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Empowered Pacific Islander Communities
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
Families for Freedom
Families Rally for Emancipation and Empowerment
Free Press

Future of Music Coalition
Generation Justice
Greenlining Institute
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Hyphen Magazine
Latino Rebels
Making Contact
Martinez Street Women's Center
May First/People Link
Media Action Center
Media Action Grassroots Network
Media Alliance
Media Mobilizing Project
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice
Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing
Movement Strategy Center
Nation Inside
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Hispanic Journalists
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
National People's Action
New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC
OpenMedia International
Our Time
People's Press Project
Presente
Progressives United
Race Forward
Racial Justice Action Center
Radio Bilingue
Roosevelt Institute
Roosevelt Institute - Campus Network
Run For Us
Seeding Change: A Center for Asian American Movement Building
Share New Mexico
South Asian Americans Leading Together
Southwest Organizing Project
St. Paul Neighborhood Network
The Highlander Research and Education Center
The Utility Reform Network (TURN)
The Visibility Project
Truthout.org
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
United We Dream
Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center

Voices for Racial Justice

Vote Mob

We the People

Women, Action & the Media!

Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press

Young People's Project

Young Women United

Youth Justice Coalition