



Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington D.C., 20554

February 18, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

We are the “small, independent businesses and entrepreneurs” that Commissioner Pai referenced in his February 6, 2015 press release about the FCC’s impending net neutrality rulemaking, and we write to say unequivocally that his release does not represent our views on net neutrality. Quite the opposite, entrepreneurs and startups throughout the country have consistently supported Chairman Wheeler’s call for strong net neutrality rules enacted through Title II.

For today’s entrepreneurs and startups, failure to protect an open Internet represents an existential threat. Because net neutrality is such an important issue, the startup community has been engaged in the Commission’s Open Internet proceeding to an unprecedented degree. The clear, resounding message from our community has been that Title II with appropriate forbearance is the only path the FCC can take to protect the open Internet. Any claim that a net neutrality plan based in Title II would somehow burden “small, independent businesses and entrepreneurs with heavy-handed regulations that will push them out of the market” is simply not true. The threat of ISPs abusing their gatekeeper power to impose tolls and discriminate against competitive companies is the real threat to our future.

Contrary to any unsupported claims otherwise, we believe that the outlined proposal that the Chairman circulated last week will encourage competition and innovation by preventing ISPs from using their gatekeeper power to distort the Internet market for their own private benefit. A vibrant Internet economy depends on an open playing field in which small, innovative entrepreneurs can compete with incumbents on the quality of their services, not on the size of their checkbook or their roster of lobbyists. In *Verizon v. FCC*, the DC Circuit stated in no uncertain terms that, without reclassifying broadband under Title II, the FCC cannot impose the bright-line bans on ISP discrimination that startups need to compete. As such, any plan that does not include Title II reclassification cannot support strong net neutrality rules. We are pleased that Chairman Wheeler has recognized this simple reality.

Chairman Wheeler’s plan is the best proposal we have seen to date for protecting the open Internet. While there are important details yet to be finalized, the substance of the rules that the Chairman circulated last week are encouraging. Any attempt to undermine the Chairman’s proposal through obfuscation and innuendo is not productive, and certainly does not represent the opinion of the startups and entrepreneurs that have worked so hard to make the Internet great.

Sincerely,

Automattic  
Dwolla  
Etsy  
Foursquare Labs, Inc.  
GitHub  
AgSmarts Inc.  
Akorn Entertainment  
AnalyticsMD  
Angaza Designb  
Are You a Human  
Asensei  
Authentise Inc.  
Bento  
Big Brothers Advice  
Bigger Markets  
Blu Zone  
Borneo  
BoxJelly  
Bright Funds  
Capitol Bells  
Cheezburger  
CitiQuants Corporation  
CoCo  
CodeHS  
CoinPrices.io  
Coolhouse Labs  
CoreTCS  
CrowdCover  
Development Seed  
DigiSoy Technologies  
Distinc.tt  
Duffy  
eDivv, Inc.  
Embed.ly, Inc.  
Engage Colorado  
Estate Map  
Ethical SEO Consulting  
Evol8tion  
Fonebook

Imgur  
Kickstarter  
Tumblr  
Yelp  
Global Accelerator Network  
Graph Story  
Gravity  
Gun.io  
H-Farm  
Happy Life Essentials  
Hattery  
JumpCloud  
Kapuno Communities  
Keen IO  
LaunchTN  
Lean Team Tuning  
LightsOn Web Solutions  
Localwells  
Makai Software  
MakersTour.com  
Mapbox  
Meetup  
Modernrepo  
Modria.com, Inc.  
Newco Platform  
Next Big Sound  
Nocturnal Coding Monkeys  
Notion  
NourishWise  
OneFire, Inc.  
Overhead.fm, Inc.  
PadMapper  
PalateHome  
Patch of Land  
Plickers  
Proto Venture Technology  
Rachio  
Ramen  
Reality Crowd TV Media  
Reinventors Network

Rockstar Digital  
Rollbar  
Safe-Xchange  
Seed Sumo  
Shapeways  
SimPolaris  
Sonic  
Sphero  
Sportsfeed  
Start Co.  
Sunshine  
SunStyle  
Survature, Inc.  
Talko  
TeamSnap  
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