

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2014

1314

The Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The open Internet serves as the backbone of our economy and a critical artery for free speech. We must act now to protect the world's most open platform for commerce and communications.

Nearly a year has passed since the D.C. Circuit Court invalidated the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) previous net neutrality rules and found that the agency erred by constructing those rules on faulty legal grounds. Since then, we have heard from millions of constituents, companies and entrepreneurs about the need for the Commission to use its authority to prevent broadband providers from engaging in discriminatory practices. More than four million Americans have written to the FCC and have made their voices clear: no Internet fast and slow lanes.

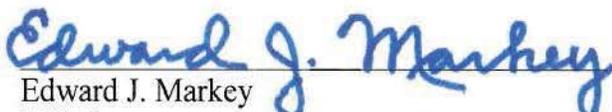
Many of us have previously written to you and urged the Commission to put the strongest possible rules on the books in order to ensure the health and vitality of the Internet for future generations. We called on the FCC to prohibit paid prioritization that would harm our economic growth by leaving start-ups and small businesses to suffer in Internet slow lanes.

We believe the way to achieve a free and open Internet is to reclassify broadband as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act, with appropriate forbearance. As you know, President Obama recently joined us in urging this action.

Everyone has spoken; now is the time for action. We urge you to act without delay to finalize rules that keep the Internet free and open for business.

Thank you for your continued consideration and your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

  
Edward J. Markey  
U.S. Senator

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. Representative



Al Franken  
U.S. Senator



Henry A. Waxman  
U.S. Representative



Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator



John Conyers  
U.S. Representative



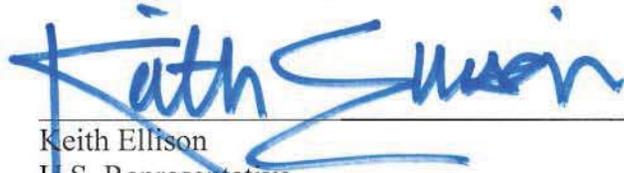
Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator



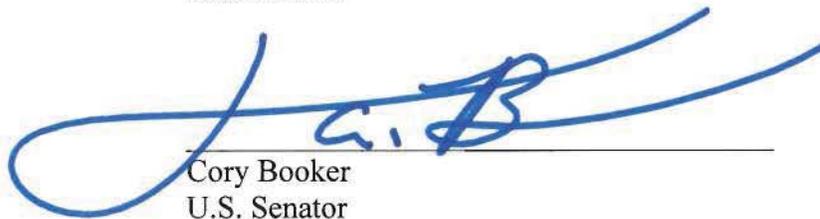
Raul Grijalva  
U.S. Representative



Tammy Baldwin  
U.S. Senator



Keith Ellison  
U.S. Representative



Cory Booker  
U.S. Senator



Zoe Lofgren  
U.S. Representative



Carl Levin  
U.S. Senator



Mike Doyle  
U.S. Representative



Bernard Sanders  
U.S. Senator

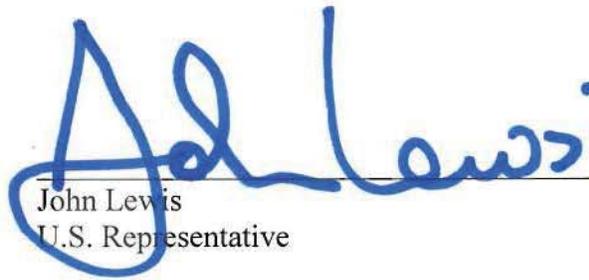


Barbara Lee  
U.S. Representative



Barbara Boxer

U.S. Senator



John Lewis

U.S. Representative



Benjamin L. Cardin

U.S. Senator



Michael E. Capuano

U.S. Representative



Elizabeth Warren

U.S. Senator



Chellie Pingree

U.S. Representative



Jeff Merkley

U.S. Senator



Betty McCollum

U.S. Representative



Suzanne Bonamici

U.S. Representative



Tim Ryan

U.S. Representative



Mark Takano

U.S. Representative



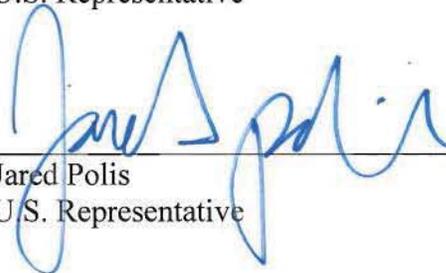
Michael Honda

U.S. Representative



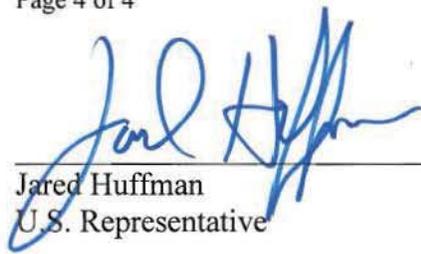
Earl Blumenauer

U.S. Representative



Jared Polis

U.S. Representative



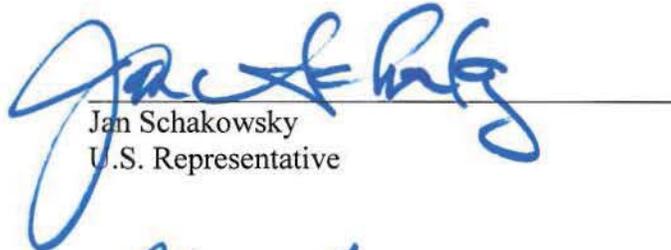
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Jared Huffman  
U.S. Representative



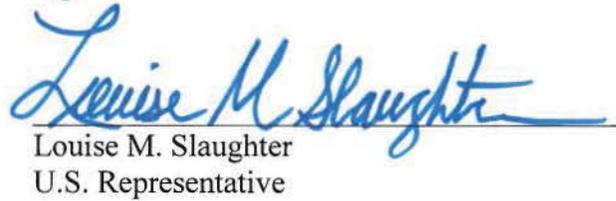
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James McGovern  
U.S. Representative



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Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. Representative



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Louise M. Slaughter  
U.S. Representative



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Niki Tsongas  
U.S. Representative



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Sam Farr  
U.S. Representative



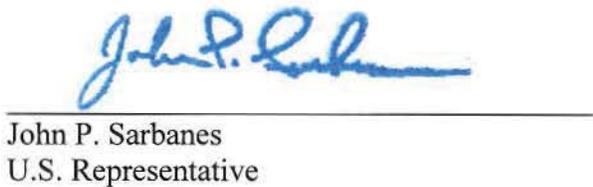
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Peter DeFazio  
U.S. Representative



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Eric Swalwell  
U.S. Representative



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John P. Sarbanes  
U.S. Representative



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
717 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for strong Open Internet rules, as well as for reclassification of broadband Internet access under Title II of the Communications Act. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be included in the record.

Over the past year, I have come to believe that there are three simple keys to our broadband future. Our broadband networks must be fast; our broadband networks must be fair; and our broadband networks must be open. On February 26, 2015, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve new rules designed to preserve the Internet as an open platform for innovation, investment, and free expression. Utilizing the combined authority of Title II of the Communications Act and Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act, these rules are rooted in long-standing regulatory principles, marketplace experience, and public input received over the last year. This Order represents the most open rulemaking in history and is based on months of listening to the views of policymakers outside the Commission, industry and public interest representatives, and, as you note, millions of Americans from all walks of life speaking in a clear voice against practices that harm a free and open Internet.

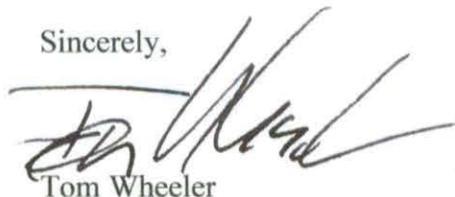
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Importantly, these rules are grounded in the strongest authority the FCC can utilize: a modernized application of Title II of the Communications Act, along with Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act. I refer to this application of Title II as "modernized" because we have used the forbearance authority granted to us by Congress to ensure that we are not applying unreasonable conditions to these modern networks. The Order forbears from 27 provisions of Title II and more than 700 FCC rules and regulations. This forbearance is targeted to avoid major issues like rate regulation, tariffing, and network unbundling, which would not be appropriate for the broadband Internet access industry, and is designed to preserve incentives for continued investment in broadband networks.

The FCC's new rules, grounded in strong Title II authority coupled with appropriate forbearance, carry the support of millions of Americans, and are poised to keep the Internet open and free for consumers and innovators for years to come.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for strong Open Internet rules, as well as for reclassification of broadband Internet access under Title II of the Communications Act. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be included in the record.

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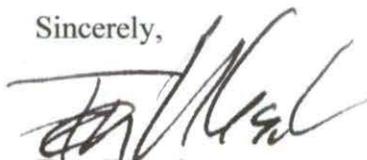
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Page 2—The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici  
U.S. House of Representatives  
439 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bonamici:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for strong Open Internet rules, as well as for reclassification of broadband Internet access under Title II of the Communications Act. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be included in the record.

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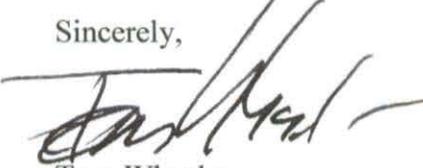
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Page 2—The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
141 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for strong Open Internet rules, as well as for reclassification of broadband Internet access under Title II of the Communications Act. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be included in the record.

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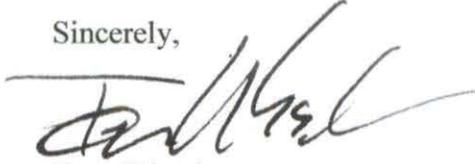
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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boxer:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for strong Open Internet rules, as well as for reclassification of broadband Internet access under Title II of the Communications Act. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be included in the record.

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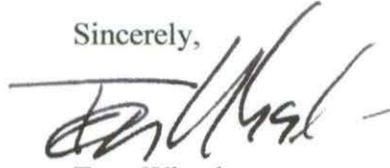
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Page 2—The Honorable Barbara Boxer

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1414 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Capuano:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for strong Open Internet rules, as well as for reclassification of broadband Internet access under Title II of the Communications Act. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be included in the record.

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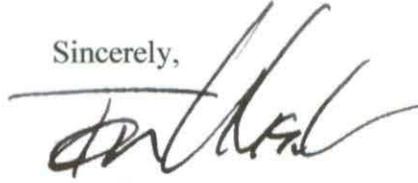
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Page 2—The Honorable Michael E. Capuano

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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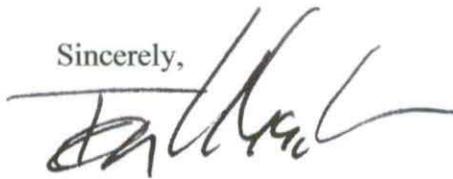
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Page 2—The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin

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Tom Wheeler



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

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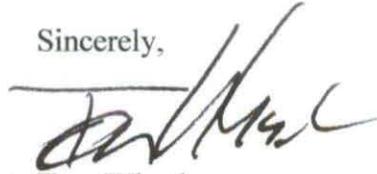
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Page 2—The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio

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Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for contacting me to express your support for strong Open Internet rules, as well as for reclassification of broadband Internet access under Title II of the Communications Act. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be included in the record.

Over the past year, I have come to believe that there are three simple keys to our broadband future. Our broadband networks must be fast; our broadband networks must be fair; and our broadband networks must be open. On February 26, 2015, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to approve new rules designed to preserve the Internet as an open platform for innovation, investment, and free expression. Utilizing the combined authority of Title II of the Communications Act and Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act, these rules are rooted in long-standing regulatory principles, marketplace experience, and public input received over the last year. This Order represents the most open rulemaking in history and is based on months of listening to the views of policymakers outside the Commission, industry and public interest representatives, and, as you note, millions of Americans from all walks of life speaking in a clear voice against practices that harm a free and open Internet.

Based on the input of all these stakeholders, the FCC adopted the strongest possible open Internet protections. Specifically, we established bright-line rules banning paid prioritization, blocking, and throttling of legal content, along with a general conduct rule that can be used to stop new and novel threats to the Internet as they develop. These rules apply to both fixed and mobile broadband Internet access services. This approach provides clear rules of the road for all stakeholders, while ensuring there is a referee in place to keep things fair in the future.

Importantly, these rules are grounded in the strongest authority the FCC can utilize: a modernized application of Title II of the Communications Act, along with Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act. I refer to this application of Title II as "modernized" because we have used the forbearance authority granted to us by Congress to ensure that we are not applying unreasonable conditions to these modern networks. The Order forbears from 27 provisions of Title II and more than 700 FCC rules and regulations. This forbearance is targeted to avoid major issues like rate regulation, tariffing, and network unbundling, which would not be appropriate for the broadband Internet access industry, and is designed to preserve incentives for continued investment in broadband networks.

The FCC's new rules, grounded in strong Title II authority coupled with appropriate forbearance, carry the support of millions of Americans, and are poised to keep the Internet open and free for consumers and innovators for years to come.

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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tom Wheeler