

*Before the*  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of:	)	
	)	
Preserving the Open Internet	)	GN Docket No. 09-191
	)	
Broadband Industry Practices	)	WC Docket No. 07-52
	)	

**COMMENTS OF THE FREE COMMUNITY PAPER INDUSTRY**

Mid-Atlantic Community Papers Association, on behalf of Association of Free Community Papers, Community Papers of Michigan, Free Community Papers of New York, Community Papers of Florida, Midwest Free Community Papers, Community Papers of Ohio and West Virginia, Southeastern Advertising Publishers Association, Wisconsin Community Papers et al. (collectively “Community Papers Commenters”), submits these Comments in response to the Commission’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking In the Matter of Preserving the Open Internet, Broadband Industry Practices. Community Papers Commenters firmly believe that an open and nondiscriminatory Internet is critical to fair competition and the survival of the local media ecosystem.

The free community paper industry has been providing truly local news and information to our readers for over half a century. Collectively, we’ve served nearly every community in America long before the “pay to read” model of dissemination began to erode. For us, “hyper-local” is not the latest buzzword or strategic bandwagon, rather instead it is our enduring business model.

No shortage of major players, from legacy media to data aggregators, are just now “discovering” the untapped promise of our neighborhoods, real or imagined. In the competition for advertising dollars with our own phone service providers, we rest assured that inbound calls to our sales departments will not be met with artificial busy signals or rerouted to our carrier’s Yellow Book representatives. But today, our internet-based communications receive no such treatment under force of law.

It’s no secret that print advertising revenues are shifting online. The future of our industry’s collective enterprise depends on our readership having uncompromised access to our websites. Fair and robust competition in the digital age can only be achieved by equal access and neutral treatment of traffic across platforms and devices.

Respectfully submitted,

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