

WILLIAM H. SORRELL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUSANNE R. YOUNG
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

WILLIAM E. GRIFFIN
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY
GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171
FAX: (802) 828-3187
TTY: (802) 828-3665

<http://www.atg.state.vt.us>

STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001

July 18, 2014

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I write to join the overwhelming majority of American consumers and corporate entities to strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to preserve the Open Internet and “net neutrality.” As such I wholly endorse the Comment on Proceeding Number 14-28, Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet submitted by Attorneys General Schneiderman of New York and Madigan of Illinois.

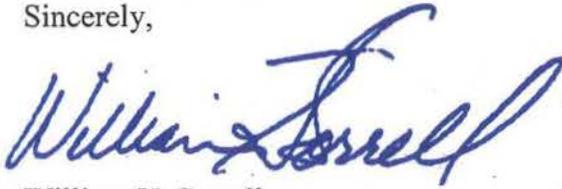
There can be no doubt that the internet has been one of the fundamental engines of our economy for the last two decades. It has been so because of the possibility that any business, no matter how small, could be the next YouTube, Netflix, Facebook, or Amazon. Vermont is proud of its small businesses, and permitting telecommunications and cable companies to discriminate between content providers would undermine the very essence of the internet.

Consumers, similarly, should continue to use the internet as they long have, knowing that Comcast or Verizon will not be favoring one content provider over another, or even worse prohibiting consumers from receiving certain content due to contract disputes with providers. Consumers already pay different rates for different internet speeds, so the argument that broadband providers must charge different rates to recoup their costs is baseless.

The time has come to correct the mistake made over a decade ago: reclassify broadband providers as “telecommunications services” rather than “information services.” Broadband internet should be subject to the same common carrier requirements as telephone networks.

The primary beneficiaries of eliminating the Open Internet would be the broadband providers themselves. The decision here is obvious, and it is my fervent hope that the Federal Communications Commission does the right thing, and issues no rules that would negatively impact net neutrality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William H. Sorrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and "S".

William H. Sorrell
Attorney General, State of Vermont