



February 8, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer

Internet Association (IA) and its members believe strong, enforceable net neutrality protections are critical to a thriving internet ecosystem that benefits everyone. IA supports bright-line rules that ban throttling, blocking, and paid prioritization, as well as a general conduct standard that ensures these protections stand the test of time. The Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) is the expert agency on net neutrality, is best equipped to enforce these ex ante consumer protections, and must continue to be the agency to do so moving forward.

The FCC’s recent Restoring Internet Freedom Order (the “Order”) represents the complete reversal of broad, bipartisan consensus in the operation of the internet, and leaves consumers with no meaningful protections to ensure their access to the entire internet. The current Order should not stand, and IA supports all efforts — including comprehensive bipartisan legislation — to restore strong, enforceable net neutrality protections at the federal level.

To that end, IA supports the Senate Congressional Review Act resolution to invalidate the Federal Communications Commission’s January 4, 2018, Restoring Internet Freedom Order. While the CRA will help alleviate immediate concerns, the internet industry urges Congress to legislate a permanent solution.

Legislation that memorializes all of the protections from the 2015 Order would also enjoy support from IA and its member companies. The time has come for a bipartisan effort to establish permanent net neutrality rules for consumers, startups, established internet businesses, and internet service providers.

Americans rely on and deserve the lasting certainty of an open internet enshrined in the U.S. Code. Strong net neutrality rules are necessitated by, among other factors, the lack of competition in the broadband service market. More than half of all Americans have no choice in their provider, and 87 percent of rural Americans have no choice. The CRA is an important step in solidifying open internet protections. Thank you for your continued commitment to consumers and the internet industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Beckerman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Beckerman
President & CEO