

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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Majority (202) 225-2927
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February 21, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael F. Doyle
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Chairman Doyle:

Following the Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on net neutrality earlier this month, we write to urge you to work with us on bipartisan legislation to ensure that Americans' access to an open internet will be permanently protected.

During the hearing, we announced three bills that are realistic avenues to consensus. These were not simply discussion drafts nor procedural measures to negate or reinstate past rules. We all agree on the need to legislate baseline protections for net neutrality, open internet, or whatever new term may be coined for the consumer protection principles that are supported by Republicans and Democrats alike.

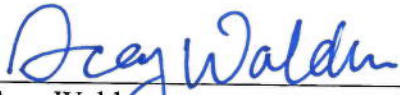
Mr. Walden's legislation would take us away from the courtroom battles and enact the rules against blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization that have been the mainstays of every net neutrality conversation for over a decade. Mr. Latta's legislation was drawn directly from the legislative proposal made by the last Democratic Chairman of this Committee. And, of course, Ms. Rodgers' legislation would enact the net neutrality rules adopted on an overwhelming and bipartisan basis by her home state colleagues just last year, and highly praised at that time by many leading Democrats. These are all reasonable and achievable proposals, and each gives us a path to protect consumers without invoking the heavy hand of Title II of the Communications Act of 1934, which would give the government unbridled power to tax the internet, institute costly fees, set prices and terms of plans, and even take control of assets. These powers will not provide more protections for consumers, but would punish consumers through higher costs, fewer choices, and less innovation.

We ask that you reject the special interest groups who insist on Title II or nothing. Their approach will not lead to bipartisan legislation that the President would sign into law. Join us in keeping the internet vibrant and free from over-regulation while making sure consumers are protected from possible anti-competitive behaviors.

As Chairman Pallone stated in 2010, this is a job for Congress. Working together, this is a job that we can get done. Let's remember that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was signed after years of seemingly intractable differences. It was through bipartisan cooperation that members of this Committee were able to come together to create landmark legislation that protected consumers and incentivized unprecedented innovation and investment.

We stand ready to work with you and all of our colleagues on the Committee to forge a new, enduring, bipartisan legislative landmark to put an end to this debate and protect the open internet for generations to come.

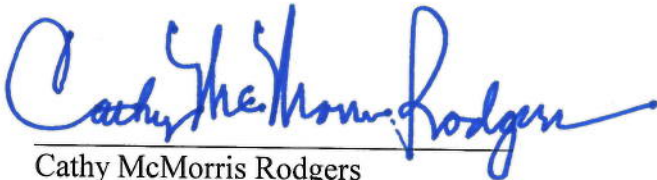
Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Republican Leader



Robert E. Latta
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce