



**Computer & Communications
Industry Association**
Tech Advocacy Since 1972

May 9, 2014

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O’Rielly:

The creation and evolution of a free and open Internet has been one of the most important and positive developments in modern history. Its preservation should be of the highest priority for you and other parts of the US government, as it is for us. The Internet provides economic, social and political empowerment and opportunity for billions around the world. Our industry is proud of its part in bringing about this change and urges your every effort to preserve it.

American innovators and investors have created much of the technology, applications, services and content that are used throughout the world. Companies of all sizes have helped provide economic opportunity for users and providers alike, and we are in agreement that our ability to innovate and become global leaders has rested upon the reality of open, level, and non-discriminatory principles.

The Commission’s long-standing commitment and actions undertaken to protect the open Internet are a central reason why the Internet remains an engine of entrepreneurship and economic growth. If new rules were to be adopted to authorize discriminatory practices by phone and cable Internet service providers, it would constitute a refutation of historical experience and threaten innovators, investors, users and the future potential of the Internet itself. The innovation and vibrant free speech we have seen flourish happened in a world without online discrimination or tolls booths. We don’t need them now!

Instead of authorizing discrimination and forcing individual companies to bargain separately with bottleneck providers possessing substantial market power the Commission should protect users, start-ups and Internet companies against discrimination and prioritization fees, and work to make the market for Internet access services more competitive and transparent. Any new rules should provide greater certainty to all market participants and end users.

Minimal competition in the provision of Internet access needs to remain a focus of Commission attention. Greater competition would allow a freer market to help preserve an open Internet. Any imposition of what are essentially private terminating access charges is an abuse of market power over end users, only economically possible because of lack of alternative options.

This Commission should rely on the strongest statutory legal authority available to it to ensure that the Internet remains an open platform for speech and commerce for all American citizens and businesses.

We do not need to change the diet of the goose that lays the golden egg.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E J Black". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Edward J. Black
President and CEO
CCIA