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Computer & Communications Industry Association

February 14, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Commerce and Energy Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Commerce Energy Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Open Internet

Dear Chairman Upton, Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Waxman, and
Ranking Member Eshoo:

We write to urge your support for the FCC's open Internet rule and rejection of a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act. Americans have come to depend on reliable open Internet access for their daily life and work. Yet without a light touch FCC rule, households, students and small businesses lack any recourse at all if their Internet Access Provider (IAP) decides to follow its natural economic incentive and technical ability to prioritize its own content and affiliated services or even block other end user choices.

The FCC's December 2010 decision was adopted after several lengthy proceedings and unprecedented public input. The result is a very modest rule designed to preserve open non-discriminatory Internet access. In deference to the wishes of IAPs, the FCC completely avoided Title II common carrier regulation. The rule allows flexible network management and does nothing to inhibit broadband network deployment, while it affirmatively facilitates innovation and investment in new online services, content, applications and access devices by providing some minimal assurance they will not be blocked arbitrarily.

CRA repeal would actually leave the American public worse off than with no open Internet rule, as it would also rescind FCC authority in this area. Congress has repeatedly entrusted the FCC with a duty to protect the public interest in nationwide communications by wire and radio. No other agency can help your constituents with Internet access abuses if FCC authority is terminated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Black".

Ed Black
President & CEO
CCIA

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Rey Ramsey".

Rey Ramsey,
President & CEO
Tech Net