

June 11, 2019

Senator Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

In April, the House of Representatives passed the ***Save the Internet Act*** (H.R.1644) with bipartisan support. This critical bill restores net neutrality and broadband competition protections for all Americans, ensuring that rural and underserved communities gain access to the internet and that big cable companies are not able to control what people do, see, and say online.

We the undersigned 103 organizations urge you to listen to the American public and to immediately bring the *Save the Internet Act* (S.682) to a vote in the Senate.

Today marks one year since the FCC made the unpopular decision to officially kill net neutrality and broadband protections for the American people. On the one-year anniversary of the end of the *Open Internet Order*, we encourage the Senate to join your House colleagues in implementing the will of your constituents — 4 in 5 of whom support net neutrality, including 77% of Republicans, according to recent polling.¹

Since the repeal of the *Open Internet Order* by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), millions of Americans have been fighting to protect an open and accessible internet and calling on Congress to restore vital protections for universal communications rights, small business innovation, and free speech online.

In the year since the FCC took away the 2015 *Open Internet Order*, we have seen some very troubling and dangerous activities by big cable and telephone companies:

- Verizon slowed down the Santa Clara fire department's data in the midst of one of the worst wildfires in California history;²
- The largest U.S. telecom companies were caught slowing streaming speeds to popular applications like YouTube and Netflix;³
- Centurylink blocked internet access to force customers to view specific ads;⁴

¹[Birnbaum, Emily \(2019\). 4 in 5 Americans say they support net neutrality: poll. The Hill](#)

²[Brodkin, Jon \(2018\) Verizon throttled fire department's "unlimited" data during Calif. Wildfire. Ars Technica](#)

³[Kharif, Olga \(2018\). YouTube, Netflix Videos Found to Be Slowed by Wireless Carriers. Bloomberg](#)

⁴[Brodkin, Jon \(2018\). CenturyLink blocked its customers' Internet access in order to show an ad. Ars Technica](#)

- AT&T gave preference to its own video services by not having its video data count against customers' monthly data caps;⁵ and
- Sprint has been accused of interfering with Skype, which provides an alternative to wireless carriers' voice, video, or messaging services.⁶

Despite empty rhetoric by open internet opponents, the 2015 *Open Internet Order* did not harm broadband investment from 2015-2017, nor is broadband investment, deployment, or speed increasing since the FCC's repeal.

While advocates seek redress in court to overturn the FCC's disastrous repeal, Senate passage of the *Save the Internet Act* will reaffirm Congress's intent and support for broadband users' rights. Passing this bill would help reestablish important net neutrality protections while the court case challenging the FCC's net neutrality repeal proceeds through months, or even years, of additional appeals. Like the House, the Senate should pass this bill without any harmful amendments designed to water down, weaken, or fatally wound it.

Senator McConnell, we call on you to enact the will of hundreds of millions of people who support open internet protections and broadband competition, and the millions who have taken action demanding them, by allowing Senators to vote on the *Save the Internet Act*.

Americans want and deserve enforceable protections that preserve net neutrality, ensure stronger broadband competition, and improve access. They don't want big cable and phone companies controlling what they see, say, and do online. They want more choices and more affordable internet access service.

The *Save the Internet Act* is the best chance to restore real net neutrality and an open and accessible internet for everyone in America. We urge the Senate to move forward on this important bill that will restore strong open internet protections.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org

350.org

Access Humboldt

Access Now

Alliance for Community Media

Alternate ROOTS

American Alliance of Museums

American Association of Law Libraries

American Family Voices

⁵[Bode, Karl \(2018\). *How the new AT&T could bully its way to streaming domination*. The Verge](#)

⁶[Kharif, Olga \(2018\). *Sprint Is Throttling Microsoft's Skype Service, Study Finds*. Bloomberg](#)

American Library Association
Americans for the Arts
Appalshop, Inc.
Arts & Democracy
Association of Art Museum Directors
Association of Performing Arts Professionals
Association of Research Libraries
California Clean Money Campaign
California League of Conservation Voters
Cascade Educational Broadcast Service (XRAY.fm)
CASH Music
Center for Democracy and Technology
Center for Media Justice
Center for Rural Strategies
Climate Hawks Vote
Coalition of Religious Communicators Associations
Color Of Change
Common Cause
Common Dreams
Consumer Reports
Corporate Accountability
Courage Campaign
CreaTV San Jose
Daily Kos
Dance/USA
Demand Progress
Democracy for America
Dream Corp
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Emerald Onion
Engine
EveryLibrary
Faithful Internet
Fight for the Future
Folk Alliance International
Franciscan Action Network
Free Press Action
Friends of the Earth
Future of Music Coalition
Greenpeace
Harry Potter Alliance
Indivisible
Institute for Intellectual Property & Social Justice

Just Foreign Policy
KEXP
Line Break Media
Make Shift
Media Access Project
Media Action Center
Media Alliance
Media Mobilizing Project
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice
Mississippi Center for Cultural Production
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients
National Council of Churches USA
National Digital Inclusion Alliance
National Federation of Community Broadcasters
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Organization for Women
Native Public Media
New America's Open Technology Institute
Oakland Privacy
Open Access Connections
OpenMedia
Other98
OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
PEN America
People Demanding Action
People For the American Way
Prometheus Radio Project
Popular Resistance
Presente.org
Progress America
Public Citizen
Public Knowledge
Revolving Door Project
RootsAction.org
Social Security Works
SumOfUs.org
The Alliance for Media Arts + Culture
The Authors Guild
The Greenlining Institute
The Nation
Theatre Communications Group
TURN - The Utility Reform Network
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.

Watchdog.net

Web Foundation

Win Without War

Women In Film, Los Angeles

Women's Institute for freedom of the press

Working Narratives

Writers Guild of America West

X-Lab