



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

December 6, 2017

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

RE: Restoring Internet Freedom (WC Docket No. 17-108)

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to express my grave concerns with the Federal Communications Commission's draft order to repeal net neutrality rules that ensure a level playing field for consumers and innovators in my state. I strongly urge you to reconsider before the Commission's scheduled vote on December 14, 2017.

All Americans, as a matter of principle, should enjoy equal access to the educational, social and economic power of the internet. Ensuring this important technology remains free and unfettered is critical both to our personal freedoms and to our country's economy. The internet has become an unparalleled economic engine, generating millions of new jobs while providing even the smallest businesses in the United States access to a global marketplace. We should not be taking steps that undermine its core purpose. This is as critical as freedom of speech.

The State of Washington continues to lead the way in demonstrating how a neutral internet fosters innovation and creates tremendous economic opportunity. By supporting an open internet, our state has benefitted from 190,000 jobs, 9,000 companies, thousands of innovations and billions of dollars of investment that are at the heart of our vibrant digital economy. We have seen firsthand how innovative internet companies — like Amazon, Zillow and Expedia — have the capacity to transform the way middle-class families shop, travel, enjoy entertainment and buy homes. To ensure this economy continues to thrive, it is incumbent on all of us to work together to preserve the open foundation of the internet for the next generation of innovators and consumers.

That's why, as a longtime proponent of net neutrality, I welcomed the existing rules adopted by the Commission in 2015. I strongly believe these well-founded rules must be retained to preserve an open internet. I have long held that it should be the policy of this country — and the companies that do business here — that all internet service providers (ISPs) should honor and uphold the open foundation of the internet by adhering to certain principles, including:

- Free flow of information over the internet.
- No blocking of lawful websites.
- No unreasonable discrimination of lawful network traffic.
- No paid prioritization.
- A clear commitment to transparency.



Net neutrality principles ensure large corporations are never in the position of deterring innovation, obstructing entrepreneurship or disenfranchising citizens. They are essential to preserving the very foundation of the internet as we know it, while enabling digital innovation in Washington State and across the country to grow unbridled by corporate interference. Unfortunately, the Commission's draft order undermines these core principles and for the first time allows broadband providers — rather than the marketplace — to pick the winners and losers in the 21st century economy.

I believe the Commission's 2015 rules are critical to protecting consumers and internet companies on both fixed and mobile platforms from blocking, throttling, discrimination and paid prioritization, while making the market for internet services more transparent for all. I urge you not to repeal them.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "I".

Jay Inslee
Governor

cc: Commissioner Carr
Commissioner Clyburn
Commissioner O'Rielly
Commissioner Rosenworcel
Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation