



Representative Scott Jio Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Bill Walker
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Governor Walker,

I am writing to bring attention to the recent Federal Communications Commission order reversing the net neutrality regulations put in place during the previous presidential administration. I believe that a free and open internet is a vital issue to Alaska families and small business. As such, I recently introduced House Bill 277, requiring broadband providers to practice net neutrality while doing business in Alaska.

The Open Internet Order of 2015 made changes to Title II of the Communication Act of 1934 to classify broadband providers as "common carriers," meaning they would be treated like utilities. Under the Order, broadband providers treated all information equally and were prevented from engaging in "blocking, throttling and paid prioritization" of the any data they transmitted. By reclassifying broadband providers under Title I as an "information service," broadband providers could legally coerce people into paying more money for the exact same services, or even less services, than they had previously been receiving.

Broadband internet is a modern-day necessity. Powerful internet service providers do not need a handout when thousands of Alaskans lack basic Internet access. There are only two broadband providers available to most of Alaska and I applaud them for their promise to voluntarily practice net neutrality. However, I predict that when larger, out-of-state providers begin to take advantage of their new market powers, our Alaskan providers will be forced to follow suit. We must prevent take quick and decisive action to prevent this from happening

On January 16, the Attorney General of New York joined with Attorneys General in twenty-one other states to file a multistate lawsuit to block the FCC's illegal reversal of net neutrality. I implore you to join their cause and fight to ensure an open internet with the free flow of information and free exchange of ideas remains a cornerstone of our economy and society.

Thank you for you hard work in making Alaska communities safer, stabilizing the state economy, and forging a path to future growth and development. I would be happy to discuss net neutrality further and answer any questions you may have.

Working Hard for Fairbanks Families,

A blue ink signature of Representative Scott Kawasaki, written in a cursive style.

Representative Scott Kawasaki
City of Fairbanks