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## Alaska Telecom Association

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### Net Neutrality FAQ

#### What is Net Neutrality?

- In simplest terms it means that internet customers get to choose what content they access on the internet without interference or influence from their provider. There is broad agreement that Net Neutrality is a good thing. The disagreement is over how much regulation is necessary to achieve it.

#### Why is Net Neutrality all over the news and social media?

- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to restore the light touch regulation of internet service. This action reversed the so-called “Title II” utility-style regulations adopted in 2015 during President Obama’s administration and restored the power of internet oversight to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), where it was for the prior 20 years.

#### What does the FCC’s 2017 reversal of its 2015 Net Neutrality rules mean?

- The FCC returned the internet to the lighter touch regulation that applied during the Clinton and Bush years — a period when the internet thrived and gave way to game changing innovations we consider commonplace today like Google, Facebook, Amazon, Netflix, Twitter, Ebay, Craigslist, etc.

#### How can I be confident that my internet experience is still protected by the Federal Government?

- This change hasn’t ended the open internet. The FCC and FTC have agreed to cooperate in regulating the internet. The FCC’s rules require that ISPs transparently disclose their network management practices. The FTC is the original internet cop and is empowered to enforce ISPs’ public commitments to preserve net neutrality and to police anticompetitive behavior. Congress also is actively considering permanent net neutrality legislation.

#### What are state Resolutions HJR31 and SJR 12 asking Congress to do?

- These resolutions ask Congress to overturn the 2017 FCC order that repealed the FCC’s “Title II” style regulations. If the FCC order was overturned and the FCC’s Title II regulations were re-established, it would strip the FTC’s authority to regulate the internet and force internet service providers back into a very heavy handed and murky set of 1930’s style utility regulations that ultimately don’t work for an industry as dynamic and adaptive as the internet.

#### What do HB277 and SB160 propose to do?

- These bills propose to reimpose the heavy-handed FCC Net Neutrality rules adopted in 2015 on a state level. Alaska providers have publicly committed that they do not and will not impair their customers’ access to internet services or content, regardless of what happens in Washington, D.C. This type of regulation is unnecessary – Alaskans are already getting the desired result of the legislation.
- Federal law preempts state and local Net Neutrality regulation.