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December 13, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Carr, and Rosenworcel:

The State of Alaska has a keen interest in any laws or regulations surrounding the accessibility of broadband internet, regardless of location or economic status. Many areas of our state are reliant on the internet, not just for personal use, but for telehealth, distance education, and other important services. Broadband internet can be a lifeline for many of our residents who live in remote areas removed from any law enforcement presence, where a call to a State Trooper or health professional hundreds of miles away is essential for health and safety. Having a reliable, free and open internet is vital for a state as vast and geographically remote as ours.

This is why Alaska has an interest in the "Restore Internet Freedom" proposal to rollback the net neutrality regulations, WC Docket No. 17-108. The recent news regarding the discovery of fake submissions in this Docket—that could number in the millions—causes us great concern. Based on this new information, we respectfully request that the Commission delay its decision on the proposal until the integrity of the process can be appropriately investigated.

Ensuring that the Commission has received and reviewed accurate and meaningful public comments before taking action is an important part of the regulatory process. Public comments help agencies understand the true potential impacts of their actions, and help identify areas that need to be developed more thoroughly to give consumers and businesses necessary direction and clarity. If much of what was submitted to the Commission was fraudulent, it would be difficult to get a clear picture of what the impacts of the proposal truly are.

We believe more time is needed to sort out how this action will impact Alaskans and whether it will lead to discriminatory and harmful practices. That evaluation starts with an open and transparent process based on listening to the comments and concerns of the public. Right now, that process cannot be trusted without further investigation into whether fraudulent comments were submitted and considered by the Commission.

Please consider delaying any further action until the integrity of the process can be restored.

Sincerely,



Bill Walker
Governor



Jahna Lindemuth
Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, United States Senate
The Honorable Don Young, United States House of Representatives
Stephen McAlpine, Chairman, Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Rebecca Pauli, Commissioner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Robert Pickett, Commissioner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Norman Rokeberg, Commissioner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska
Jan Wilson, Commissioner, Regulatory Commission of Alaska