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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

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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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Walker" clearly distinguishable.

Bill Walker
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jahna Lindemuth". The signature is cursive and stylized, with the first name "Jahna" and last name "Lindemuth" clearly distinguishable.

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



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

Alaska State Legislature

Official Business



State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182

Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

Please help start congressional deliberations on net neutrality with the goal of enacting it into law.

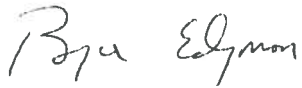
Letting the Federal Communications Commission take the lead on net neutrality creates fear, uncertainty, and instability. Policy may change every time control of the White House changes. It is time for Congress to assert leadership in this arena and create guidelines for the 21st century that provide stability and predictability in something as significant as Internet service.

As the information age has rapidly progressed, the Internet has become a pillar of a democratic society, vital to commerce, education, communications, and everyday life. It is similar to a public utility that needs protection against the kind of chaos once seen in the early days of the telephone. The quality and speed of Internet service should not be determined by private actors who may not have the public's best interests at heart, especially in rural regions where there is often only one Internet provider, making remote areas vulnerable to the dangers of a monopoly. In these instances, competition may not be counted on to protect consumers.

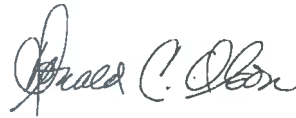
Current protections under the Open Internet Order of 2015 are at risk. The FCC is considering whether to reverse this policy and give private companies an unprecedented level of control over how we use the Internet. The FCC is poised to relinquish its authority to enforce common-sense, net-neutrality rules, letting Internet service providers engage in unfair and predatory practices like site-blocking and throttling. We need to continue to treat broadband Internet providers as common carriers under Title II of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 — a law that needs updating to meet the demands of the Internet age which have changed dramatically since Congress passed the measure 21 years ago.

Please oppose attempts to roll back net-neutrality and help set in law protections established in the Open Internet Order of 2015.

Thank you,



Representative Bryce Edgmon



Senator Donald Olson



Representative Neal Foster



Senator Dennis Egan



Representative Sam Kito



Representative Justin Parish



Representative Zach Fansler

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

State Capitol, Rm. 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Interim

1500 W. Benson
Anchorage, AK 99503



December 11, 2017

The Honorable Jahna Lindemuth
Alaska Attorney General
1031 W 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Attorney General Lindemuth,

On December 14, the Federal Communications Commission is set to vote on its November 21 proposal to repeal regulations establishing the nation's broadband policy of net neutrality. We believe the FCC's proposal is bad for Alaskans, and we are asking you to take action on behalf of the people of Alaska to stop this proposal.

The protections net neutrality accords Alaskans should not be so easily extinguished. The FCC's plan would readily permit internet service providers (ISPs) to lawfully discriminate against or charge rates differently among users, websites, content, and other attributes by allowing the ISPs to control the speeds at which internet data is delivered or by restricting or blocking access to certain sites altogether. Like telephone service and electricity, broadband is essential to society and must be regarded as a public utility that is subject to reasonable regulations. Charging more for customers to access certain websites or to experience adequate data delivery speeds; paid-prioritization of some online businesses and content over others; and the likelihood of ISPs conferring preferential treatment to their corporate allies over their competitors results in a pay-to-play system that affronts our tried and cherished principles of equality and fair opportunity. With its proposal, the FCC is knowingly inviting anti-consumer practices and a promise of financial rewards based on discrimination.

We also have grave concerns about the proposal's implications on our First Amendment rights. Free speech is fostered by a neutral net environment that enables the open flow of citizens' thoughts, ideas, and concerns and ensures information that is relied upon to form opinion is accessible. Free speech, free press, and our right of association are all at risk with the FCC's repeal of net neutrality.

The proposal is especially detrimental to Alaskans. Our state's climate and isolation from the Lower 48 means that our people rely heavily on the internet to connect with one another and the Outside, to keep in touch with family, for work, and for education purposes. And our remote communities—many of which already struggle to obtain stable, affordable internet access—appreciate and rely on the principles of net neutrality to maintain connectivity to Alaska's more urban hubs and beyond.

The FCC's proposal seems ill-considered and risks directly hurting vulnerable consumers and offending so many of our fundamental values. But in addition to these inevitable negative consequences, the FCC's public process on this matter has been unacceptably flawed. During the April through August 2017 public comment period, the FCC received an unprecedented 22 million comments. Of those comments, up to one million have already been linked to stolen identities; half a million appear to have been generated from Russian email addresses; 94% appear to have been posted multiple times; 57% came from duplicate or temporary addresses; there were nine instances that 75,000 same or similar comments posted at the exact same second; and the top seven comments made up 38% of the submissions.

A citizen comment process is a necessary aspect of proposing regulation changes. But because the integrity of the public process is in question, the FCC cannot conscionably weigh those submissions into its net neutrality determination. An FCC decision of this magnitude must be achieved through a legitimate and fair process, without fraudulent influences.

In light of our concerns, we ask you to ensure that Alaska takes a strong stance against the FCC's proposal to end net neutrality. First, the FCC must be urged to delay its December 14 vote to allow investigations into fraudulent public comments to proceed to findings before relying on those submissions or assuming the public process was valid. Second, if the FCC proceeds to a vote on December 14 or thereafter, repealing net neutrality, the State of Alaska should sue or join other plaintiffs to overturn the FCC's decision.

Sincerely,



Senator Bill Wielechowski



Senator Tom Begich



Senator Berta Gardner



Representative Harriet Drummond



Representative Andy Josephson



Senator Dennis Egan



Senator Donny Olson



Representative David Guttenberg



Representative Scott Kawasaki

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Ortiz". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "D" and a prominent "O".

Representative Dan Ortiz

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ivy Spohnholz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "I" and a prominent "S".

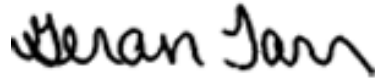
Representative Ivy Spohnholz

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Tuck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "C" and a prominent "T".

Representative Chris Tuck

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Parish". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "J" and a prominent "P".

Representative Justin Parish

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geran Tarr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large "G" and a prominent "T".

Representative Geran Tarr

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session

State Capitol, Rm. 7
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Interim

1500 W. Benson
Anchorage, AK 99503



December 11, 2017

Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dan Sullivan
602 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Don Young
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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On December 4, 28 of your colleagues in the United States Senate wrote to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, calling on the FCC to investigate the apparently defective public process, expressing their belief that the FCC action "may be based on an incomplete understanding of the public record." As your colleagues state: "Without additional information about the alleged anomalies . . . the FCC cannot conduct a thorough and fair evaluation of the public's views on this topic, and should not move forward with a vote on December 14, 2017."

We ask you to join your 28 senate colleagues in urging the FCC to conduct a thorough investigation of any possible interference with the public process in this matter and further, that you voice your opposition to the FCC proceeding with its December 14 vote to repeal net neutrality. In addition, we request that you work on behalf of the Alaskans you represent—including, if necessary, introducing or supporting legislation—to ensure the internet accessibility policy of our nation always remains *net neutrality*.

Sincerely,



Senator Bill Wielechowski



Senator Tom Begich



Senator Berta Gardner



Senator Donny Olson



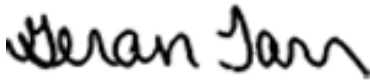
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