



Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

House Bill 277 Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to the regulation of broadband Internet; and making certain actions by broadband Internet service providers unlawful acts or practices under the Alaska Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Act.”

HB 277 would require Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who provide broadband Internet to Alaskan families engage in the practice of net neutrality. The bill would make sure all data on the Internet is treated equally. It would protect small businesses from uncompetitive practices and guarantee an open and free internet for all users.

Without net neutrality, ISPs may legally speed up certain sites, slow down others, block sites all together, and require certain users to pay more for Internet fast lanes. The elimination of net neutrality gives ISPs the power to determine what websites consumers could visit and what content website creators could share. Allowing ISPs to discriminate based on content undermines a free and open Internet as well as a free and open society. Eliminating net neutrality risks Alaskans First Amendment rights of free speech, free press, and free association, the right to privacy, and distorts the free market.

On multiple occasions, millions of Americans have publicly commented in favor of protecting net neutrality and have spoken out against the recent Federal Communications Commission order to eliminate net neutrality rules implemented in 2015. The internet is a modern necessity for individuals and businesses. Net neutrality is widely supported by consumer rights groups, privacy groups, and businesses organizations.

This bill would ensure that the Internet remains a platform for unrestricted economic competition and free communication. I respectfully request your support for HB 277.

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