

**HB**

**360**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 360</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
360</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA30</COMM></TARGET>





# Representative Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Legislature

District 1 Fairbanks

## House Bill 360 Sponsor Statement

*"An Act relating to state procurement regulations."*

HB 360 would require contracted Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to practice net neutrality while doing business with the State of Alaska. It would add to the state procurement code a prohibition from contracting with ISPs that do not treat all websites equally or that engage in paid prioritization. HB 360 would harness the State's market power to incentivize ISPs to keep their word and follow net neutrality in practice.

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 can visit and what content website creators can share. Allowing ISPs to discriminate based on content undermines a free and open Internet, puts Alaskans' right to free speech and association at risks, undermines Alaskans' Constitutional right to privacy and distorts the fair 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. Net neutrality is widely supported by consumer rights groups, privacy groups, and businesses organizations.

The Governors of Montana, New York, New Jersey, and Vermont have all signed executive orders implementing procurement restrictions like those in HB 360.

This bill would ensure that the agencies of the State of Alaska have access to a free and open internet and it would put pressure on ISPs to ensure the public has access to the same. I respectfully request your support for HB 360.

###

**In Juneau** ◦ Alaska State Capitol Room 502, Juneau, Alaska 99801  
**In Fairbanks** ◦ 1292 Sadler Way Suite 306, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
**Juneau** ◦ (907) 465-3466 ◦ **Fairbanks** ◦ (907) 456-7423  
**Email:** Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov



# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 360  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB360-DOA-SSOA-03-4-18  
Title: STATE INTERNET PROCUREMENT  
Sponsor: KAWASAKI  
Requester: (H) STA

Department: Department of Administration  
Appropriation: Shared Services of Alaska  
Allocation: Purchasing  
OMB Component Number: 60

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2019 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2019 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>	<b>FY 2022</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Change in Revenues**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? **Yes**  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **03/01/19**

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:**

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Jason Soza, Chief Procurement Officer</u>	Phone: <u>(907)465-1474</u>
Division: <u>Shared Services of Alaska</u>	Date: <u>03/04/2018 08:30 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Leslie Ridle, Commissioner</u>	Date: <u>03/04/18</u>
Agency: <u>Administration</u>	



FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB360

**Analysis**

This bill prohibits the procurement of internet services from providers who do not follow “net neutrality” principles. State solitations and contracts will need to include language stipulating this requirement. Current Internet Service Providers under contract with the State are already following net neutrality principles. The Department of Administration, Shared Services of Alaska Division, anticipates minimal effects as a result of this legislation; therefore, the agency submits a zero fiscal note.



Data compiled by LAA Accounting

Distributed by the office of Representative Kawasaki. Call (907)465-3466 for additional information.

<b>Location Code</b>	<b>Cost of Data/Network</b>
<b>Anchorage LIO</b>	<b>18,673.51</b>
<b>Anch Ombudsman</b>	<b>472.28</b>
<b>Anchorage Div of Leg Audit</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>
<b>Barrow LIO</b>	<b>2,228.38</b>
<b>Bethel LIO</b>	<b>2,580.80</b>
<b>BILL RAY CENTER</b>	<b>1,112.86</b>
<b>Capitol</b>	<b>10,203.80</b>
<b>Cordova LIO</b>	<b>1,469.79</b>
<b>Delta Jct LIO</b>	<b>1,989.64</b>
<b>Dillingham LIO</b>	<b>2,933.92</b>
<b>Eagle River Leg Offices</b>	<b>4,858.38</b>
<b>Fairbanks LIO</b>	<b>1,014.41</b>
<b>Glennallen LIO</b>	<b>2,790.32</b>
<b>Homer LIO</b>	<b>1,958.27</b>
<b>Juneau LIO</b>	<b>26,015.79</b>
<b>Kenai Penn LIO</b>	<b>1,013.20</b>
<b>Ketchikan LIO</b>	<b>539.99</b>
<b>Kodiak LIO</b>	<b>813.21</b>
<b>Kotzebue LIO</b>	<b>2,824.77</b>
<b>Mat Su LIO</b>	<b>5,095.53</b>
<b>Nome LIO</b>	<b>2,002.12</b>
<b>Petersburg LIO</b>	<b>1,161.92</b>
<b>Seward LIO</b>	<b>1,549.89</b>
<b>Sitka LIO</b>	<b>2,521.15</b>
<b>Tok LIO</b>	<b>2,964.72</b>
<b>Unalaska LIO</b>	<b>2,637.60</b>
<b>Valdez LIO</b>	<b>439.89</b>
<b>Wrangell LIO</b>	<b>2,193.89</b>
<b>No Location Code</b>	<b>5,741.50</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,801.53</b>



## State of Alaska Broadband Costs

Agency	Department Specific Broadband	Department Specific Cellular Broadband	Department Broadband Total
Statewide Broadband Infrastructure (OIT)	\$0	\$0	\$1,303,762
Department of Administration	\$39,252	\$133,599	\$172,851
Department of CCED	\$0	\$41,710	\$41,710
Department of Corrections	\$7,800	\$98,851	\$106,651
Department of Education	\$20,540	\$12,514	\$33,054
Department of Environmental Conservation	\$42,628	\$53,559	\$96,186
Department of Fish & Game	\$192,261	\$220,353	\$412,614
Department of HSS	\$66,300	\$467,208	\$533,508
Department of Labor	\$210,000	\$82,572	\$292,572
Department of Law	\$109,704	\$11,947	\$121,651
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	\$26,748	\$78,388	\$105,136
Department of Natural Resources	\$66,360	\$107,598	\$173,958
Department of Public Safety	\$149,040	\$178,508	\$327,548
Department of Revenue	\$30,000	\$70,921	\$100,921
Department of Transportation	\$154,345	\$420,175	\$574,520
Office of the Governor	\$7,920	\$34,720	\$42,640
<b>Summary Total</b>	<b>\$1,122,899</b>	<b>\$2,012,624</b>	<b>\$4,439,285</b>

**Notes:**

**Broadband definition:** (FCC) The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies such as:

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Cable Modem, Fiber, Wireless, Satellite, Broadband over Powerlines (BPL)

**Department Specific Broadband:** Specific to broadband initiatives initiated and paid for within the Departments

**Department Specific Cellular Broadband:** Includes all departments employees on GCI and employee reimbursements, this does not capture some non-GCI broadband.

Statewide Broadband Infrastructure contract service level payments





# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

No. 175

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **ENSURING NET NEUTRALITY PROTECTIONS FOR NEW YORKERS**

**WHEREAS**, the internet is an essential service that should be available to all New Yorkers;

**WHEREAS**, the free exchange of information, including the ability to access the content of their choosing secured with net neutrality protections is expected and relied upon by all New Yorkers;

**WHEREAS**, New York businesses need the ability to reach new markets, compete in an increasingly global economy, and attract new talent through a free and open internet;

**WHEREAS**, New York students rely on a free and open internet to learn and access information far beyond their physical reach;

**WHEREAS**, educational institutions throughout New York rely on a free and open internet to teach and help their students grow;

**WHEREAS**, New York State employees need access to a free and open internet to conduct business on behalf of the people of New York State;

**WHEREAS**, New Yorkers rely on a free and open internet to communicate with family and friends, participate in the democratic process, research important family and personal decisions, and learn and be entertained;



**WHEREAS**, New York State has a responsibility to ensure the efficient procurement of goods and services for the State of New York and its political subdivisions and the principles of net neutrality are inherently tied to the provision of high quality, high speed broadband internet service for the State;

**WHEREAS**, because many New York State government services are available only via the internet, and throttling or paid prioritization would limit the ability of many of the most vulnerable New Yorkers to access the internet; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDREW M. CUOMO**, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New York do hereby order and direct New York State's government, through this Executive Order, not to enter into any contracts for internet service unless the ISPs agree to adhere to net neutrality principles. The Office of General Services or any other governmental entity of New York State, as defined herein, is directed to incorporate into the State's procurement process for internet, data, and telecommunications services criteria requiring that recipients of state contracts adhere to internet neutrality principles as follows:

A. Definitions

1. As used herein, "net neutrality" means ISPs will not block, throttle, or prioritize internet content or applications or require that end users pay different or higher rates to access specific types of content or applications.

2. As used herein, "Affected State Entities" means (i) all agencies and departments over which the Governor has Executive Authority; and (ii) all public-benefit corporations, public authorities and commissions, for which the Governor appoints the Chair, the Chief Executive, or the majority of Board Members, except for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

B. Agency Responsibilities

1. Affected State Entities are hereby directed to amend their procurement procedures to ensure that Affected State Entities only enter into contracts with ISPs that adhere to net neutrality principles and to ensure that internet services provided to Affected State Entities, include net neutrality protections, and specifically state that ISPs may not block lawful content, applications, services, non-harmful devices, or applications that compete with other services provided by the ISP. Any contract or contract renewal entered into by Affected State Entities for internet services on or after March 1, 2018, shall include a binding



2. The Department of Public Service is directed to evaluate potential actions to promote net neutrality in order to protect New Yorkers' access to a free and open internet.



BY THE GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mr. C" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Secretary to the Governor

G I V E N under my hand and the Privy Seal of the  
State in the City of Albany this twenty-  
fourth day of January in the year two  
thousand eighteen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Andrew Cuomo" written in a stylized, cursive script.



**STATE OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 3-2018**

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROVIDING FOR  
INTERNET NEUTRALITY PRINCIPLES IN STATE PROCUREMENT**

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**WHEREAS**, the free and open exchange of information, secured by a free and open internet, has never been more essential to modern social, commercial, and civic life;

**WHEREAS**, Montanans expect and rely on the traditional principle that internet service providers will not pick and choose what content they can see—rather, Montanans expect that their internet service providers will be “neutral” and abide by principles commonly referred to as “internet neutrality”;

**WHEREAS**, guided by principles of internet neutrality, the information society and Montana’s economy have flourished;

**WHEREAS**, Montana citizens rely on a free and open internet to meet the world—to learn, to entertain, to make informed personal choices about their families and to make public choices about our society;

**WHEREAS**, Montana businesses rely on a free and open internet to enter new markets, to gain new insights, to recruit, to compete, and to grow—few changes in human communications have revolutionized commerce so quickly;

**WHEREAS**, educational institutions in Montana rely on a free and open internet to provide Montanans with world-class educational opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, as federal regulators recently illustrated, a free and open internet is not guaranteed—it is susceptible to corporate and political degradation, and its protection requires constant vigilance by consumers, market participants, and governments alike;

**WHEREAS**, the loss of internet neutrality principles threatens to increase the costs of accessing and sharing information for people and for businesses alike;

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has argued that violations of internet neutrality principles may violate state competition and fair trade practices laws, which requires the vigilance and attention of state governments;

**WHEREAS**, many internet service providers, including significant broadband and mobile internet services providers in Montana, have made public pledges to adhere to certain internet neutrality principles in the wake of changes by federal regulators;



**WHEREAS**, the State of Montana is a significant purchaser of internet services;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Executive Order is to ensure the efficient procurement of goods and services for the State of Montana; the uniform application of internet neutrality principles in Montana is closely related to the delivery of predictable, stable, high quality internet service for the State, and this Executive Order is an essential response for state procurement policy and local economic needs;

**WHEREAS**, the State of Montana has a distributed data storage model and thousands of employees across the state—paid prioritization and throttling could fundamentally impact state employees’ ability to conduct business; and

**WHEREAS**, many State of Montana government services are exclusively online; throttling and paid prioritization could limit Montana citizens’ ability to receive government services and dramatically deepen the “digital divide” as well as exacerbate challenges our poorest citizens have in accessing government help.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK**, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby order and direct the Department of Administration to incorporate into the state procurement process for internet, data, and telecommunications services (collectively, “telecommunications services”) criteria requiring that successful recipients of state contracts adhere to internet neutrality principles.

After July 1, 2018, to receive a contract from the State of Montana for the provision of telecommunications services, a service provider must publicly disclose to all of its customers in the State of Montana (including but not limited to the State itself): accurate information regarding the network and transport management practices (including cellular data and wireless broadband transport), performance and commercial terms of its broadband internet access services sufficient for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services and for content, application, service, and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings.

After July 1, 2018, to receive a contract from the State of Montana for the provision of telecommunications services, a service provider must not, with respect to any consumer in the State of Montana (including but not limited to the State itself):

1. Block lawful content, applications, services, or nonharmful devices, subject to reasonable network management that is disclosed to the consumer;
2. Throttle, impair or degrade lawful internet traffic on the basis of internet content, application, or service, or use of a nonharmful device, subject to reasonable network management that is disclosed to the consumer;
3. Engage in paid prioritization; or



4. Unreasonably interfere with or unreasonably disadvantage:


- a. End users' ability to select, access, and use broadband internet access service or the lawful internet content, applications, services, or devices of their choice; or
- b. Edge providers' ability to make lawful content, applications, services, or devices available to end users.

By March 1, 2018, the Department of Administration shall prepare such policies and other guidance, and issue such orders as are deemed necessary and appropriate to carry out this Executive Order and to monitor its enforcement. The Department shall resolve any dispute over the definition of terminology used in this Executive Order.

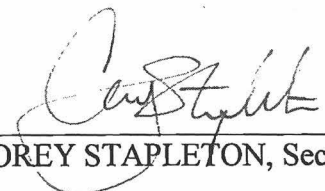
Each contracting department or agency that procures telecommunications services shall cooperate with the Department of Administration in implementing this Executive Order and provide such information and assistance as the Department of Administration may require in the performance of its functions under this Executive Order. Agencies must receive approval from the Department of Administration before procuring internet services, including cellular data and/or wireless broadband internet services.

This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of  
the State of Montana this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of  
January 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State





# THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



February 20, 2018

Governor Bill Walker  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

There has been a lot of concern about how Alaska should respond to the decision by the Federal Communications Commission to repeal net neutrality rules. We believe that as the Governor, you have the authority under Article III, Sections 1 and 24 of the Alaska Constitution to prohibit through an executive order all state agencies from entering into internet service contracts with providers that violate the principles of net neutrality with respect to any consumer in the state.

The State of Alaska has wide latitude to set conditions to any contracts within the government. State agencies spend over \$4.4 million a year for broadband services and are among the heaviest consumers of internet services in our state. As a consumer, Alaska's choice needs to be clear: we demand net neutrality. Governors in New York and Montana have issued executive orders that would also prohibit their state agencies from entering into contracts with providers that do not abide by the principles of net neutrality.

This executive order should state that to receive a state contract an internet service provider shall not with respect to any consumer in the state:

- Block internet content,
- Throttle or degrade internet traffic on the basis of internet content,
- Engage in paid prioritization, or
- Interfere with or disadvantage a user's ability to access and use broadband internet service.

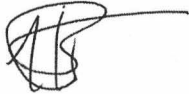
The internet plays a vital role in the daily lives of Alaskans. Alaska's educational institutions rely on a free and open internet to provide our communities with educational opportunities. Alaska's emerging telemedicine industry relies on the internet to provide rural Alaskan communities better access to healthcare professionals and reduces the need for non-emergency travel in rural communities. Alaskan businesses rely on a free and open internet to advertise, compete, and grow. It is for these reasons we implore you to stand up for Alaskans and ensure that the internet remains open and accessible.



Thank you for your consideration,



Senator Bill Wielechowski



Senator Tom Begich



Senator Berta Gardner



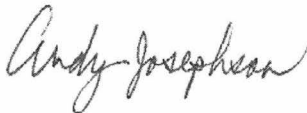
Senator Gary Stevens



Representative Harriet Drummond



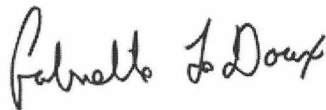
Representative Les Gara



Representative Andy Josephson



Representative Sam Kito



Representative Gabrielle LeDoux



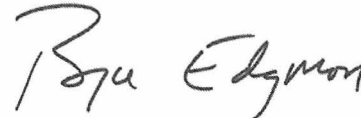
Senator Dennis Egan



Senator Donny Olson



Representative Matt Claman



Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon



Representative David Guttenberg



Representative Scott Kawasaki



Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins



Representative John Lincoln

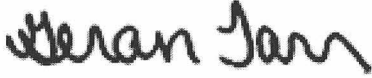




Representative Dan Ortiz



Representative Paul Seaton



Representative Geran Tarr



Representative Adam Wool



Representative Justin Parish



Representative Ivy Spohnholz



Representative Chris Tuck





Published on *Christian Coalition* (<http://www.cc.org>)

[Home](#) > Fast Facts for Conservatives on Net Neutrality

## Fast Facts for Conservatives on Net Neutrality

- Since its birth, the Internet has existed on phone lines which were covered under what are known as "common carrier" regulations, (or "Net Neutrality"), which prevented discrimination by network providers based on content or where a call originated. This principle carried over to the Internet and helped make it a dynamic engine for free expression and economic growth.
- In recent months, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) lifted "net neutrality" regulations off of the Internet, leaving the issue up to Congress to decide. It is currently being debated as part of pending telecommunications legislation.
- **"Net neutrality" policies helped create the most free and fair marketplace in history**, allowing consumers to choose the winners and losers in a competitive marketplace. This resulted in the best ideas, products and services rising to top.
- **Unless Congress acts, it will change drastically - for the worse.** The new regulations will leave consumers with less choice and our economy with less innovation and competition. Without equality of access, such innovation would be diminished at best, or perhaps even begin to move to competing countries in the world economy.
- The new FCC regulations set the cable and phone companies up to become the equivalent of the mafia to the Internet. Today, consumers dictate the evolution of the Internet. **Under the new regulations, cable and phone companies will be making the decisions.** And their decisions will not be made based on quality, but rather on who pays the most "protection money" to be protected from the competition of a truly free marketplace.
- **The Internet currently provides a megaphone for political expression** by virtue of the fact that every site, no matter how obscure, is just as accessible to every individual as any site with a multi-million dollar budget. Every American has the opportunity to create their own site and say what they want to the entire world.



- Conservatives had made many gains in recent years thanks to the power of the Internet. In terms of organization, it has become an indispensable tool. In political communications, it allows us to finally bypass the liberal media and to get our message out more effectively. **These gains must be preserved!**
- Under the new rules, **there is nothing to stop the cable and phone companies from now allowing consumers to have access to speech that they don't support.** What if a cable company with a pro-choice Board of Directors decides that it doesn't like a pro-life organization using its high speed network to encourage pro-life activities? Under the new rules, this could happen - **and it would be legal!**
- Allowing Internet service providers to control what people see and do online would fundamentally undermine the principles that have made the Internet such a success. But such things have already begun to happen. For Example:
  - In 2004, North Carolina ISP Madison River blocked their DSL customers from using any rival web-based phone service (like Vonage, Skype, etc.).
  - In 2005, Canada's telephone giant Telus blocked customers from visiting a website sympathetic to the Telecommunications Workers Union during a labor dispute.
  - In April, Time Warner's AOL blocked all emails that mentioned [www.dearaol.com](http://www.dearaol.com) <sup>[1]</sup> - and advocacy campaign opposing the company's pay-to-send email plan.
- In a time when there is an increasing need to connect citizens with their political system, the Internet has begun to play this role in a big way. Now Congress is on the verge of allowing that newfound energy to be diminished.
- Given that most Americans have just one (or at most, two) companies through which they can get broadband access, the free market principle of competition for consumer dollars doesn't enter the picture, just like the old "Ma-Bell" monopoly. Much like the trade-off involved in allowing a telephone monopoly was that the company had to provide equality of service, so too should it be with the Internet duopoly.
- Consumers that are already paying monthly fees for broadband access will soon find out they don't actually have what they thought they were paying for. **Americans won't have broadband access to the entire Internet, just the part that the cable and phone companies allow them to see.**
- Politicians that are sitting idle and empowering cable and phone monopolies to have power over what consumers can see on the Internet are some of the same politicians that would criticize countries such as China for not allowing its citizens to be exposed to the free market of ideas represented on the web.
- Congress has wisely decided many times in the past to avoid stunting the growth of the Internet via new taxation. **They should follow the same logic in this case and not allow the cable and phone companies to stunt its growth with new fees and content based discrimination.** In the end, the losers will be consumers, businesses and those who use the Internet for political expression.



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Washington, DC 20013 - 202-479-6900

**Source URL:** [http://www.cc.org/fast\\_facts\\_conservatives\\_net\\_neutrality](http://www.cc.org/fast_facts_conservatives_net_neutrality)

**Links:**

[1] <http://www.dearaol.com/>



Rank	Name	Recurring Submissions
1	Marjorie Langston	313
2	Ambrose Allen	306
3	John Hatch	302
4	Ashley Johnson	290
5	Charles Burling	290
6	Brooke Pauley	288
7	Richard Brown	288
8	John Gerlach	282
9	Shelia Davis	282
10	Stephen Pritchett	280
11	Lori Franco	278
12	Shayla Fritsche	278
13	Owen Love	275
14	Keith Hoadley	268
15	Bambi Rhoden	264
16	Heather Hollingsworth	264
17	Paula Arviso	264
18	Belinda Daniels	261
19	Allen Thompson	260
20	Richard Majors	256
21	Patricia Johnson	252
22	Chris Smith	251
23	James Davis	250
24	Diane Hetrick	249
25	Victoria Boring	243
26	Robert Rankin	242
27	Rosie Mills	236
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29	Elizabeth Flores	232
30	Deloris Wright	231
31	Monique Gibson	231
32	Tyson McGee	226
33	Stacey Anderson	224
34	Virginia Lewis	224
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36	Patrick Gary	222
37	Sandra Watts	222
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39	Coleen Simmons	221
40	Marvin Decker	221
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43	James Cates	220
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49	Janet Friesen	210
50	Martha McGee	210
51	Joan Johnson	209
52	Staci Hasler	203
53	Charles Callaghan	201
54	Larry Denson	201
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57	James Zepeda	196
58	John Hill	196
59	Julius Jones	196
60	Mark Cardenas	196
61	Mary Rios	196
62	Shannon Cross	196
63	Anita Brumback	195
64	Brent Rutherford	195
65	Curtis Vasquez	195
66	Sammy Wade	195
67	Ashley Craig	194
68	Rebecca Williams	194
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70	Dwayne Carney	188
71	Kristina McGee	188
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75	Tara Green	177
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89	Shirley Hammer	154
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100	William Hutchins	141
101	Kathleen Falcon	138
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103	Colby Fletcher	137
104	Yvonne Mullen	137
105	Joseph Smith	136
106	Nadine Wilson	134
107	Sheri Love	134
108	John Smith	133
109	Aaron Morgan	130
110	Susan Dawson	128
111	Elaine Stein	126
112	Mildred Decker	126
113	Gail Box	125
114	Gerardo Lockett	123
115	Jeffery Ross	121
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117	Heather Molyneux	120
118	Martin Roe	120
119	James Morris	117
120	Tim Stone	117
121	Donna Massey	116
122	Joanna Hansen	116
123	Joel Martinez	116
124	Mark Noble	116
125	Michael Kennedy	114
126	Eileen Taylor	113
127	Sue Dirksen	108
128	Carlos Gill	106
129	Mabel Lawrence	106
130	Ruth Davison	106
131	Shirley Weaver	106
132	Lisa Montes	105
133	Patrick Hall	105
134	Angelo Craig	104
135	Cheryl Reese	104
136	Billy McArthur	102
137	James Nasser	102
138	Russell Edmonds	102
139	Desirae Walker	100
	100+ Submissions	25,751
	2-99 Submissions	11,969
	Single Submission	17,728
	Total Submissions	55,448

Names of individuals who submitted over 100 comments to the FCC using Alaska as the address.



Top ten commenters used fake Alaskan addresses and are not registered voters in Alaska.

ID	1080745904124	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	Marjorie Langston		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	
	DISSEMINATED	Viewing Status	Unrestricted
Date Received	Aug 7, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 8,
2017 Address	4478 Timbercrest	City	juneau
	Road	State	AK
ZIP	99801		
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, Marjorie langston		
Name of Filer	Ambrose Allen		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	DISSEMINATED
Viewing Status	Unrestricted		
Date Received	Aug 8, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 8,
2017 Address	4705 Veltri Drive	City	Nikolai
State	AK	ZIP	99691
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely,Ambrose Allen		
ID	108080255800113	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	john Hatch		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	DISSEMINATED
Viewing Status	Unrestricted		
Date Received	Aug 8, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 8,2017
Address	3337 Kidd Avenue	City	Craig
State	AK	ZIP	99921
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, john Hatch		
ID	1080750252534	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	Ashley johnson		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	DISSEMINATED
Viewing Status	Unrestricted		
Date Received	Aug7, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 8, 2017
Address	473 Veltri Drive	City	Anchorage
State	AK	ZIP	99501
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, Ashley Johnson		



ID	10807465529759	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	Charles Burling		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	
	DISSEMINATED Viewing Status		Unrestricted
Date Received	Aug 7, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 8,
2017 Address	3756jerry Toth Drive	City	Noatak
State	AK	ZIP	99761
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, Charles Burling		
ID	10807109077110	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	Brooke Pauley		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	DISSEMINATED
Viewing Status	Unrestricted		
Date Received	Aug 7, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 8, 2017
Address	3479 Timbercrest	City	
		Wainwright Road	State
		AK	
ZIP	99782		
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, Brooke Pauley		
ID	10717701911775	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	Richard Brown		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	DISSEMINATED
Viewing Status	Unrestricted		
Date Received	Jul 17, 2017	Date Posted	Jul 18, 2017
Address	4377 Timbercrest	City	
		Noorvik Road	State
		AK	
ZIP	99763		
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, Richard Brown		
ID	10808217093040	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	John Gerlach		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	
	DISSEMINATED Viewing Status		Unrestricted
Date Received	Aug 8, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 8,
2017 Address	1619 Blackwell Street	City	Red Devil
State	AK	ZIP	99656
Brief Comment	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, John Gerlach		



ID	1080738574465	Proceeding	17-108
Name of Filer	Shelia Davis		
Type of Filing	COMMENT	Filing Status	DISSEMINATED
Viewing Status	Unrestricted		
Date Received	Aug 7, 2017	Date Posted	Aug 7, 2017
Address	1979 Timbercrest	City	Klukwan
ZIP	Road	State	AK
Brief Comment	99827		
	I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, Shelia Davis		
<b>1/24/2018</b>	<b>ECFS Filing Detail</b>		
<b>ID</b>	<b>10808026485021</b>	<b>Proceeding</b>	<b>17-108</b>
<b>Name of Filer</b>	<b>Stephen Pritchett</b>		
<b>Type of Filing</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>Filing Status</b>	<b>DISSEMINATED</b>
<b>Viewing Status</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>		
<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Aug 8, 2017</b>	<b>Date Posted</b>	<b>Aug8, 2017</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>2301 Blackwell Street</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Kazakof Bay</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>AK</b>	<b>ZIP</b>	<b>99615</b>
<b>Brief Comment</b>	<b>I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications Act. Sincerely, Stephen Pritchett</b>		



Recurring Comments	
I am in favor of strong net neutrality under Title II of the Telecommunications	27,656
Before leaving office, the Obama Administration rammed through a massive scheme that gave the federal government broad regulatory control over the internet. That misguided policy decision is threatening innovation and hurting broadband investment in one of the largest and most important sectors of the U.S. economy. I support the Federal Communications Commission's decision to roll back Title II and allow for free market principles to guide our digital economy.	1,954
As an Internet user, I'm asking the FCC to protect the net neutrality protections currently in place. The FCC should reject Chairman Ajit Pai's plan to give the ISP monopolies like Verizon, AT&T, and Comcast the authority to create Internet fast lanes, stripping users of the vital access and privacy safeguards we fought for and so recently won. I'm concerned about ISPs being allowed to discriminate against certain types of data or websites because users will have fewer options and a less diverse Internet. Thankfully, the existing Open Internet rules mean that Internet providers can't block or slow users' ability to see certain web services or engage in data discrimination by charging online services and websites more money to reach customers faster. That's the right kind of forward-looking approach to make sure competition in the Internet space is fair and benefits small businesses and consumers as well as larger players. Chairman Pai's proposal would transform ISPs into Internet gatekeepers with an effective veto right on innovation and expression. That's not the kind of Internet we want to pass on to future generations of technology users. This is a place that let me be introduced to a bunch of people who have helped me through hard times and helped me make job connections. Thanks for protecting Internet users like me by upholding the existing Title II net neutrality rules.	1,389
As a concerned taxpayer and consumer, I am writing to urge the FCC to set the internet free and remove the inappropriate, unnecessary and overly vast regulations currently holding back the full potential of the internet. Due to the grip of the utility-style regulations imposed under the previous Commission, taxpayers have been put at risk, the threat of new fees on consumer bills still looms large, investment in internet infrastructure has not realized its full potential, innovations have gone undeveloped and unrealized, and twenty years of the appropriate level of oversight of the internet has been reversed. We must dial-back the poorly conceived application of Title II in the Open Internet Order so that American taxpayers can benefit from an unrestrained and truly open internet that scales back the unlimited power of the government, protects consumers from new taxes and encourages future investment and endless innovations.	1,119
the FCC's Open Internet Rules (net neutrality rules) are extremely important to me. I urge you to protect them. Today's net neutrality rules require internet service providers, such as cable companies and other broadband providers, to treat all online traffic equally and allow users to visit any website and access any kind of content they want, whenever they want. Net neutrality rules have been working and these consumer protections should not be rolled back. Preserving strong, enforceable net neutrality rules is fundamental to a free and open internet, and I urge you to protect the existing net neutrality rules to ensure the internet continues to be accessible for all equally.	2,146



STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001  
907-465-3500  
fax: 907-465-3532



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-269-7450  
fax 907-269-7461  
[www.Gov.Alaska.Gov](http://www.Gov.Alaska.Gov)  
[Governor@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Governor@Alaska.Gov)

Governor Bill Walker  
STATE OF ALASKA

December 13, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



December 13, 2017

Page 2

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



Data compiled by LAA Accounting

Distributed by the office of Representative Kawasaki. Call (907)465-3466 for additional information.

<b>Location Code</b>	<b>Cost of Data/Network</b>
<b>Anchorage LIO</b>	<b>18,673.51</b>
<b>Anch Ombudsman</b>	<b>472.28</b>
<b>Anchorage Div of Leg Audit</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>
<b>Barrow LIO</b>	<b>2,228.38</b>
<b>Bethel LIO</b>	<b>2,580.80</b>
<b>BILL RAY CENTER</b>	<b>1,112.86</b>
<b>Capitol</b>	<b>10,203.80</b>
<b>Cordova LIO</b>	<b>1,469.79</b>
<b>Delta Jct LIO</b>	<b>1,989.64</b>
<b>Dillingham LIO</b>	<b>2,933.92</b>
<b>Eagle River Leg Offices</b>	<b>4,858.38</b>
<b>Fairbanks LIO</b>	<b>1,014.41</b>
<b>Glennallen LIO</b>	<b>2,790.32</b>
<b>Homer LIO</b>	<b>1,958.27</b>
<b>Juneau LIO</b>	<b>26,015.79</b>
<b>Kenai Penn LIO</b>	<b>1,013.20</b>
<b>Ketchikan LIO</b>	<b>539.99</b>
<b>Kodiak LIO</b>	<b>813.21</b>
<b>Kotzebue LIO</b>	<b>2,824.77</b>
<b>Mat Su LIO</b>	<b>5,095.53</b>
<b>Nome LIO</b>	<b>2,002.12</b>
<b>Petersburg LIO</b>	<b>1,161.92</b>
<b>Seward LIO</b>	<b>1,549.89</b>
<b>Sitka LIO</b>	<b>2,521.15</b>
<b>Tok LIO</b>	<b>2,964.72</b>
<b>Unalaska LIO</b>	<b>2,637.60</b>
<b>Valdez LIO</b>	<b>439.89</b>
<b>Wrangell LIO</b>	<b>2,193.89</b>
<b>No Location Code</b>	<b>5,741.50</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,801.53</b>



# 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.

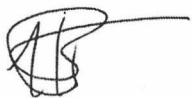
A citizen comment process is a necessary aspect of proposing regulation changes. But because the integrity of the public process is in question, the FCC cannot conscionably weigh those submissions into its net neutrality determination. An FCC decision of this magnitude must be achieved through a legitimate 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



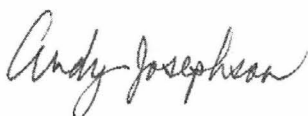
Senator Tom Begich



Senator Berta Gardner



Representative Harriet Drummond



Representative Andy Josephson



Senator Dennis Egan



Senator Donny Olson



Representative David Guttenberg



Representative Scott Kawasaki





Representative Dan Ortiz



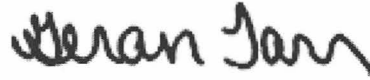
Representative Ivy Spohnholz



Representative Chris Tuck



Representative Justin Parish



Representative Geran Tarr



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## Session

State Capitol, Rm. 7  
Juneau, AK 99801



## 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

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Congressman Young,

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.

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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.

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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 conscientiously 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.

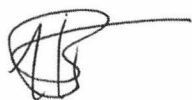
On December 4, 28 of your colleagues in the United States Senate wrote to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, calling on the FCC to investigate the apparently defective public process, expressing their belief that the FCC action "may be based on an incomplete understanding of the public record." As your colleagues 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



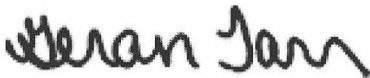
Representative David Guttenberg



Representative Scott Kawasaki



Representative Justin Parish



Representative Geran Tarr



Representative Harriet Drummond



Representative Andy Josephson



Representative Dan Ortiz



Representative Ivy Spohnholz



Representative Chris Tuck



# 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.

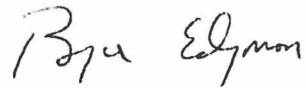
As the information age has rapidly progressed, the Internet has become a pillar of a democratic society, vital to commerce, education, communications, and everyday life. It is similar to a public utility that needs protection against the kind of chaos once seen in the early days of the telephone. The 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.

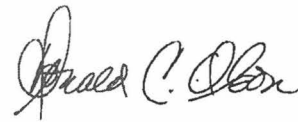
Please oppose attempts to roll back net-neutrality and help set in law protections established in the Open Internet Order of 2015.

Thank you,





Representative Bryce Edgmon



Senator Donald Olson



Representative Neal Foster



Senator Dennis Egan



Representative Sam Kito



Representative Justin Parish



Representative Zach Fausler



**STATE OF MONTANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 3-2018**

---

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROVIDING FOR  
INTERNET NEUTRALITY PRINCIPLES IN STATE PROCUREMENT**

---

**WHEREAS**, the free and open exchange of information, secured by a free and open internet, has never been more essential to modern social, commercial, and civic life;

**WHEREAS**, Montanans expect and rely on the traditional principle that internet service providers will not pick and choose what content they can see—rather, Montanans expect that their internet service providers will be “neutral” and abide by principles commonly referred to as “internet neutrality”;

**WHEREAS**, guided by principles of internet neutrality, the information society and Montana’s economy have flourished;

**WHEREAS**, Montana citizens rely on a free and open internet to meet the world—to learn, to entertain, to make informed personal choices about their families and to make public choices about our society;

**WHEREAS**, Montana businesses rely on a free and open internet to enter new markets, to gain new insights, to recruit, to compete, and to grow—few changes in human communications have revolutionized commerce so quickly;

**WHEREAS**, educational institutions in Montana rely on a free and open internet to provide Montanans with world-class educational opportunities;

**WHEREAS**, as federal regulators recently illustrated, a free and open internet is not guaranteed—it is susceptible to corporate and political degradation, and its protection requires constant vigilance by consumers, market participants, and governments alike;

**WHEREAS**, the loss of internet neutrality principles threatens to increase the costs of accessing and sharing information for people and for businesses alike;

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has argued that violations of internet neutrality principles may violate state competition and fair trade practices laws, which requires the vigilance and attention of state governments;

**WHEREAS**, many internet service providers, including significant broadband and mobile internet services providers in Montana, have made public pledges to adhere to certain internet neutrality principles in the wake of changes by federal regulators;



**WHEREAS**, the State of Montana is a significant purchaser of internet services;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this Executive Order is to ensure the efficient procurement of goods and services for the State of Montana; the uniform application of internet neutrality principles in Montana is closely related to the delivery of predictable, stable, high quality internet service for the State, and this Executive Order is an essential response for state procurement policy and local economic needs;

**WHEREAS**, the State of Montana has a distributed data storage model and thousands of employees across the state—paid prioritization and throttling could fundamentally impact state employees' ability to conduct business; and

**WHEREAS**, many State of Montana government services are exclusively online; throttling and paid prioritization could limit Montana citizens' ability to receive government services and dramatically deepen the "digital divide" as well as exacerbate challenges our poorest citizens have in accessing government help.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK**, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby order and direct the Department of Administration to incorporate into the state procurement process for internet, data, and telecommunications services (collectively, "telecommunications services") criteria requiring that successful recipients of state contracts adhere to internet neutrality principles.

After July 1, 2018, to receive a contract from the State of Montana for the provision of telecommunications services, a service provider must publicly disclose to all of its customers in the State of Montana (including but not limited to the State itself): accurate information regarding the network and transport management practices (including cellular data and wireless broadband transport), performance and commercial terms of its broadband internet access services sufficient for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services and for content, application, service, and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings.

After July 1, 2018, to receive a contract from the State of Montana for the provision of telecommunications services, a service provider must not, with respect to any consumer in the State of Montana (including but not limited to the State itself):

1. Block lawful content, applications, services, or nonharmful devices, subject to reasonable network management that is disclosed to the consumer;
2. Throttle, impair or degrade lawful internet traffic on the basis of internet content, application, or service, or use of a nonharmful device, subject to reasonable network management that is disclosed to the consumer;
3. Engage in paid prioritization; or



4. Unreasonably interfere with or unreasonably disadvantage:


- a. End users' ability to select, access, and use broadband internet access service or the lawful internet content, applications, services, or devices of their choice; or
- b. Edge providers' ability to make lawful content, applications, services, or devices available to end users.

By March 1, 2018, the Department of Administration shall prepare such policies and other guidance, and issue such orders as are deemed necessary and appropriate to carry out this Executive Order and to monitor its enforcement. The Department shall resolve any dispute over the definition of terminology used in this Executive Order.

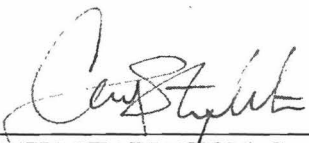
Each contracting department or agency that procures telecommunications services shall cooperate with the Department of Administration in implementing this Executive Order and provide such information and assistance as the Department of Administration may require in the performance of its functions under this Executive Order. Agencies must receive approval from the Department of Administration before procuring internet services, including cellular data and/or wireless broadband internet services.

This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of  
the State of Montana this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of  
January 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State







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NOVEMBER 29, 2017

# Public Comments to the Federal Communications Commission About Net Neutrality Contain Many Inaccuracies and Duplicates

*Fully 57% of comments used temporary or duplicate email addresses, and seven popular comments accounted for 38% of all submissions*

BY PAUL HITLIN ([HTTP://WWW.PEWRESEARCH.ORG/STAFF/PAUL-HITLIN/](http://www.pewresearch.org/staff/paul-hitlin/)), KENNETH OLMSTEAD ([HTTP://WWW.PEWINTERNET.ORG/AUTHOR/KOLMSTEAD/](http://www.pewinternet.org/author/kolmstead/)) AND SKYE TOOR ([HTTP://WWW.PEWINTERNET.ORG/AUTHOR/STOOR/](http://www.pewinternet.org/author/stoor/))

*Correction: This report initially noted that 450,000 comments were submitted to the FCC during its previous open comment period on net neutrality. That data point was based only on the initial comment period, spanning Feb. 9-July 18, 2014. The FCC subsequently reopened the comment period through Sept. 15, 2014, and the report now reflects the total number of comments received during the entirety of the 2014 public comment period. In addition, a reference to John Oliver in a sentence referring to the most popular pro-net-neutrality comment has been removed. Pew Research Center has issued a statement (<http://www.pewresearch.org/2017/11/30/our-response-to-concerns-raised-about-our-analysis-of-the-fccs-net-neutrality-public-comments/>) regarding concerns raised about this analysis.*

For the second time in less than four years, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering regulations regarding net neutrality – the principle that internet service providers must treat all data the same, regardless of the origin or purpose of that data. Opponents of net neutrality regulations argue that ISPs should have the right to prioritize traffic and charge for their services as they wish. Meanwhile, supporters of net neutrality suggest that so-called fast lanes are anti-competitive and would prevent start-ups and smaller companies from competing with more well-established companies that can afford to pay for prioritized web traffic.

From April 27 to Aug. 30, 2017, the FCC allowed members of the public to formally submit comments on the subject. In total, 21.7 million comments were submitted electronically and posted online for review. This figure dwarfs the number received during the initial comment period (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/09/05/what-drove-spike-in-public-comments-on-net-neutrality-likely-a-comedian/>) when the FCC last accepted comments on this topic in 2014, as well as the nearly four million total submissions (<https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/blog/2014/10/22/fcc-releases-open-internet-reply-comments-public>) received during the entirety of the comment process that year.<sup>1</sup> Net neutrality regulations underpin the digital lives of many Americans, yet it is challenging to survey the public on such an inherently complex and technical subject. For this reason, Pew Research Center set out to analyze the opinions of those who had taken the time to submit their thoughts to the FCC.

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However, the Center’s analysis of these submissions finds that the comments present challenges to anyone hoping to understand the attitudes of the concerned public regarding net neutrality. It also highlights the ways in which individuals and groups are using modern digital tools to engage in the long-standing practice of speaking out in order to influence government policy decisions. Among the most notable findings:

- **Many submissions seemed to include false or misleading personal information.** Some 57% of the comments utilized either duplicate email addresses or temporary email addresses created with the intention of being used for a short period of time and then discarded. In addition, many individual names appeared thousands of times in the submissions. As a result, it is often difficult to determine if any given comment came from a specific citizen or from an unknown person (or entity) submitting multiple comments using unverified names and email addresses.
- **There is clear evidence of organized campaigns to flood the comments with repeated messages.** Of the 21.7 million comments posted, 6% were unique. The other 94% were submitted multiple times – in some cases, hundreds of thousands of times. In fact, the seven most-submitted comments (six of which argued against net neutrality regulations) comprise 38% of all the submissions over the four-month comment period.
- **Often, thousands of comments were submitted at precisely the same moment.** On nine different occasions, more than 75,000 comments were submitted at the very same second – often including identical or highly similar comments. Three of these nine instances featured variations of a popular pro-net-neutrality message, while the others promoted several different anti-net-neutrality statements.

The Center conducted its analysis by downloading all the comments from the FCC’s publicly available API (<https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/developers>). All data and comments used in this report are stored on the FCC’s site and are freely available to the public. Researchers then used various data analysis techniques to summarize the comments and to look for duplicates or invalid information. Most notably, the Center utilized a measure of textual similarity to determine the share of highly similar comments that were submitted multiple times.<sup>2</sup> Full details of the contents of this dataset and the techniques used in this analysis can be found in the methodology (<http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/11/29/net-neutrality-comments-methodology/>) at the end of this report.

## **Many submissions contained false or misleading personal information**

Collecting large-scale data from the public is always challenging. It is difficult to ensure that a person online is indeed who they claim to be, and falsification of someone’s personal information can be accomplished with relatively minimal effort. The Center’s analysis finds evidence that many people did not reveal their true identities when submitting comments to the FCC. Some of these instances may have been accidental, but in many cases patterns in the comments indicate those submitting the comments intentionally entered false or misleading personal information.

### **Many common names – as well as other words – appeared thousands of times as “authors” of comments**

The most common “name” included as an author was not, in fact, a name. In nearly 17,000 instances, the name of the commenter filing their views on the FCC site was written as “Net Neutrality” (this term also appeared as the author of more than 5,000 comments in lower-case form). “The Internet” also appeared as the name in almost 7,500 submissions. Of the top 15 names that appeared in the FCC submissions, eight included the common last names of “Smith” or “Johnson,” and four were not names at all.

### **These submissions often featured email addresses that were nonfunctional, frequently repeated, or disposable**



## Thousands of submissions to FCC featured duplicate 'names'

Top 15 most-common names provided on posts submitted to the FCC's net neutrality comment website

	Name listed on the FCC's comment site	Number of submissions
1	Net Neutrality	16,983
2	The Internet	7,470
3	Pat M	5,910
4	net neutrality	5,153
5	John Smith	3,997
6	John Johnson	3,133
7	Smith	3,121
8	Michael Smith	2,708
9	Mary Johnson	2,635
10	James Smith	2,625
11	David Smith	2,576
12	Robert Smith	2,442
13	17-108	2,439
14	Michael Williams	2,237
15	MyNameJeff	2,167

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of online submissions to the FCC's net neutrality public comment form from April 27 to Aug. 30, 2017.

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([http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/11/29/public-comments-to-the-federal-communications-commission-about-net-neutrality-contain-many-inaccuracies-and-duplicates/pi\\_2017-11-29\\_net-neutrality-comments\\_0-01/](http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/11/29/public-comments-to-the-federal-communications-commission-about-net-neutrality-contain-many-inaccuracies-and-duplicates/pi_2017-11-29_net-neutrality-comments_0-01/)) In theory, the process for submitting a comment to the FCC included a validation technique to ensure the email address submitted with each comment came from a legitimate account. The submission form clearly states that all information submitted, including names and addresses, would be publicly available via the FCC site (<https://www.fcc.gov/rulemaking/most-active-proceedings>).

However, the Center's analysis shows that the FCC site does not appear to have utilized this email verification process on a consistent basis. According to this analysis of the data from the FCC, only 3% of the comments definitively went through this validation process. In the vast majority of cases, it is unclear whether any attempt was made to validate the email address provided.

As a result, in many cases commenters were able to use generic or bogus email addresses and still have their comments accepted by the FCC and posted online. For instance, the email address *example@example.com* appeared in 7,513 comments, making it the most common email address to appear. The email address *john\_oliver@yahoo.com* (television host John Oliver advocated on his show (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92vuuZt7wak>) for net neutrality earlier this year) was also used in 1,002 comments. All told, the Center's analysis identified 1.4 million email addresses that appeared multiple times in the comments.

Additionally, in 9,190 cases the email address supplied did not contain the "@" character necessary to serve a functioning email account. Moreover, 10% of the comments submitted did not include an email address at a

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Along with using duplicate or potentially fraudulent addresses, the Center’s analysis finds more than 8 million submissions included email addresses from temporary email accounts designed to disappear within hours and leave no trace of email exchanges behind.<sup>3</sup> Taken together, some 57% of the comments submitted to the FCC either utilized a temporary email address or an email address that was also included with at least one other comment.

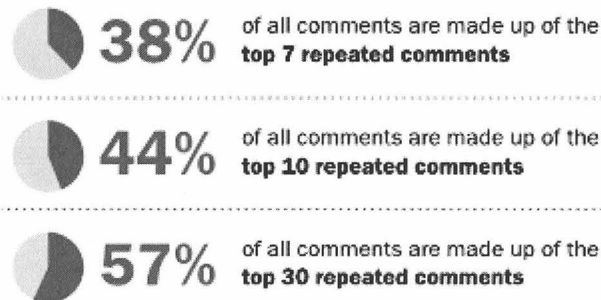
## Many submissions highlight organized efforts to influence the commentary period

The Center’s analysis of these data suggests the net neutrality comment period was marked by several organized efforts aimed at conveying the public’s feelings on this subject.

**Some 6% of the comments posted were unique submissions. Six of the seven most-common submissions in the remaining 94% argued against net neutrality and can be traced back to websites of a handful of organizations**

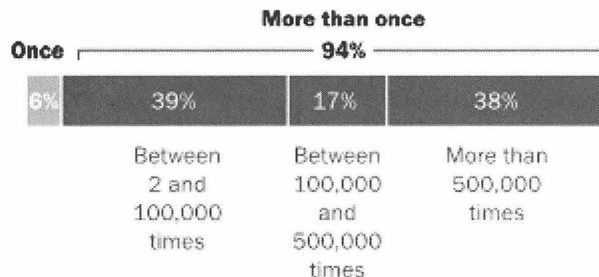
### Small number of FCC net neutrality comments made up a large portion of the total submitted

*% of FCC net neutrality comments in each group*



### Most appeared more than once; only 6% of comments were unique

*% of FCC net neutrality comments that appeared ...*



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of online submissions to the FCC’s net neutrality public comment form from April 27 to Aug. 30, 2017.

“Public Comments to the Federal Communications Commission About Net Neutrality Contain Many Inaccuracies and Duplicates”

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This analysis finds that 6% of the 21.7 million comments were submitted a single time. The remaining 94% were each submitted multiple times, in some cases numbering in the thousands. In fact, five comments were submitted more than 800,000 times each. Taken together, these seven comments alone account for more than 8 million submissions, representing 38% of the total over the entirety of the comment period.

The single comment submitted more times than any other was a pro-net-neutrality statement that appeared 2.8 million times, accounting for 13% of all submissions. At the same time, seven of the top 10 comments argued *against* net neutrality and encouraged the FCC to roll back Title II regulations.<sup>4</sup> The seven most-popular anti-net-neutrality posts made up 27% of all the comments submitted, while the three most-popular comments in favor of net neutrality made up 17% of the total submitted.

Whether they argued for or against net neutrality, the text of many of the top comments can be traced back to a small number of organizations. For example, the single most-popular comment was a pro-net-neutrality statement that appeared as a submission form on the website [battleforthenet.com](https://www.battleforthenet.com/) (<https://www.battleforthenet.com/>). Similarly, the wording for three popular comments opposing net neutrality (representing the second-, sixth- and ninth-most submitted overall) appeared on the website for an organization known as the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (<http://www.tpaaction.org/>). Combined, the text from these three suggested comments appeared in almost 2.4 million submissions, making up 11% of the total.



## The seven most-prevalent comments to the FCC were submitted more than 500,000 times each, and six opposed net neutrality regulations

*Seven most-common submissions to the FCC's net neutrality comment form*

Beginning of common text	Number of times submitted
1 The FCC's Open Internet Rules (net neutrality rules) are extremely important to me. I urge you to protect them. I don't want ISPs to have the power to block websites, slow them down, give some sites an advantage over others, or split the Internet into "fast lanes" for companies that pay and "slow lanes" for the rest. Now is not the time to let giant ISPs censor what we see and do online. Censorship by ISPs is a serious problem. Comcast has throttled Netflix, AT&T blocked FaceTime, Time Warner Cable throttled the popular game League of Legends and Verizon admitted it will introduce fast lanes for sites that pay – and slow lanes for everyone else – if the FCC lifts the rules. This hurts consumers and businesses large and small ...	2,803,359
2 In 2015 Chairman Tom Wheeler's Federal Communications Commission (FCC) imposed restrictive Title II utility-style regulations under the guise of an open internet. Not only have these regulations inhibited innovation in the internet ecosystem, they hurt taxpayers and consumers by expanding the regulatory reach of the FCC and limiting investment in internet infrastructure. We cannot allow this revolutionary tool to be bogged down with excessive government interference. It is past time for the FCC, an agency that is funded by American taxpayers, to free the internet of burdensome regulations ...	1,306,644
3 Before leaving office the Obama Administration rammed through a massive scheme that gave the federal government broad regulatory control over the internet. That misguided policy decision is threatening innovation and hurting broadband investment in one of the largest and most important sectors of the U.S. economy. I support the Federal Communications Commission's decision to roll back Title II and allow for free market principles to guide our digital economy.	1,270,140
4 The current FCC regulatory scheme known as "Title II" represents an unprecedented increase in government control over the internet. Such over-regulation is hurting our economy and suffocating innovation. I support Chairman Pai's plan to return to a commonsense regulatory framework that allows for the internet to grow without useless government interference. The internet has flourished for decades without the heavy hand of government over-regulation. Its time we return to what works.	898,633
5 The unprecedented regulatory power the Obama Administration imposed on the internet is smothering innovation, damaging the American economy and obstructing job creation. I urge the Federal Communications Commission to end the bureaucratic regulatory overreach of the internet known as Title II and restore the bipartisan light-touch regulatory consensus that enabled the internet to flourish for more than 20 years ...	818,832
6 As a concerned taxpayer and consumer I am writing to urge the FCC to set the internet free and remove the inappropriate, unnecessary and overly vast regulations currently holding back the full potential of the internet. Due to the grip of the utility-style regulations imposed under the previous Commission, taxpayers have been put at risk, the threat of new fees on consumer bills still looms large, investment in internet infrastructure has not realized its full potential, innovations have gone undeveloped and unrealized, and twenty years of the appropriate level of oversight of the internet has been reversed ...	657,018
7 The Obama-era FCC regulations known as "Title II" enable the federal government to exert an extraordinary and unnecessary amount of regulatory control over the internet. This bureaucratic overreach impedes innovation, stifles investment and continues to create economic uncertainty for one of the largest sectors of the U.S. economy ...	525,007

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of online submissions to the FCC's net neutrality public comment form from April 27 to Aug. 30, 2017. "Public Comments to the Federal Communications Commission About Net Neutrality Contain Many Inaccuracies and Duplicates"

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**In many instances, thousands of comments were submitted simultaneously – down to the second.**

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Other research (<http://www.zdnet.com/article/a-bot-is-flooding-the-fccs-website-with-fake-anti-net-neutrality-comments/>) has suggested that some share of the FCC comments may have been submitted in bulk using automated processes, such as organized bot campaigns. The Center’s analysis finds support for this argument, based on the fact that many comments were submitted at precisely the same instant. The FCC assigned a precise timestamp to each comment as it was submitted, and an analysis of those timestamps shows that on numerous occasions, thousands of posts were submitted at exactly the same time – a sign that these submissions were likely automated.

On more than 100 different occasions, 25,000 or more comments were submitted to the FCC at the same precise second. And on nine different occasions, 75,000 messages or more were posted simultaneously. The three most numerous of these nine moments featured variations of the most popular pro-net-neutrality message. The remaining six included several different anti-net-neutrality statements.

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### More than 75,000 net neutrality comments were submitted simultaneously on nine different occasions

*Number of FCC net neutrality comments*

	Date	Time (EDT)	Number of comments
1	July 19	2:57:15 p.m.	475,482
2	July 17	4:53:08 p.m.	129,281
3	July 17	4:39:21 p.m.	90,673
4	May 28	8:23:51 p.m.	90,458
5	May 24	7:18:04 p.m.	86,237
6	May 18	8:34:00 p.m.	86,237
7	May 24	7:09:20 p.m.	81,837
8	May 18	8:53:00 p.m.	80,479
9	May 23	6:12:57 p.m.	76,512

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of online submissions to the FCC’s net neutrality public comment form from April 27 to Aug. 30, 2017.

“Public Comments to the Federal Communications Commission About Net Neutrality Contain Many Inaccuracies and Duplicates”

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([http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/11/29/public-comments-to-the-federal-communications-commission-about-net-neutrality-contain-many-inaccuracies-and-duplicates/pi\\_2017-11-29\\_net-neutrality-comments\\_o-04/](http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/11/29/public-comments-to-the-federal-communications-commission-about-net-neutrality-contain-many-inaccuracies-and-duplicates/pi_2017-11-29_net-neutrality-comments_o-04/)) In the most prolific example, 475,482 comments were submitted on July 19 at precisely 2:57:15 p.m. EDT. Almost all of those comments were pro-net neutrality and offered variations of text that appeared on the site [battleforthenet.com](http://battleforthenet.com) (<https://www.battleforthenet.com/>). In some cases, the only difference was the name of the submitter: the same text was “signed” 286 times by “Andrew,” 265 times by “Michael” and 235 times by “Ryan,” among other names.

A deeper analysis of these simultaneous comments highlights several variations in how they were submitted. In some cases, the comments were highly similar but with minor variations. The 86,237 comments submitted at precisely 7:18:04 p.m. on May 24 offer an example of this approach. No two were exactly the same, but all featured consistent patterns. Most began with variations of a similar theme, such as: “Dear [FCC Chairman] Mr. Pai, I am a voter worried about regulations on the Internet,” “Dear Chairman Pai, I am a voter worried about Title 2 and net neutrality,” or “Dear Commissioners: I’m concerned about Internet regulation and net neutrality.”

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The body of these comments also featured similar phrases. One post charged, “Obama’s policy to take over the web is a betrayal of net neutrality. It reversed a free-market policy that functioned supremely well for decades with both parties’ backing.” While another stated, “The previous administration’s policy to control the Internet is a betrayal of the open Internet. It disrupted a free-market system that functioned fabulously smoothly for decades with bipartisan approval.”

In other cases, the content of these simultaneous submissions was entirely identical. On May 28 at exactly 8:23:51 p.m. EDT, the FCC received 90,458 comments with this exact message: “Title II is a Depression-era regulatory framework designed for a telephone monopoly that no longer exists. It was wrong to apply it to the Internet and the FCC should repeal it and go back to the free-market approach that worked so well.” Indeed, this example was not an isolated incident. The Center identified at least five separate occasions when the exact same text was submitted more than 24,000 times at precisely the same moment.

## On at least five occasions, more than 24,000 exactly identical net neutrality comments were submitted to the FCC in a single second

*Number of FCC net neutrality comments*

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (EDT)</b>	<b>Number of submissions</b>	<b>Beginning of comment text</b>
1	July 17	4:53:08 p.m.	120,425	The FCC’s Open Internet Rules (net neutrality rules) are extremely important to me. I urge you to protect them ...
2	May 28	8:23:51 p.m.	90,458	Title II is a Depression-era regulatory framework designed for a telephone monopoly that no longer exists. It was wrong to apply it to the Internet and the FCC should repeal it and go back to the free-market approach that worked so well.
3	July 17	4:39:21 p.m.	84,731	The FCC’s Open Internet Rules (net neutrality rules) are extremely important to me. I urge you to protect them ...
4	May 26	3:25:35 p.m.	74,810	Obama’s Net Neutrality order was the corrupt result of a corrupt process controlled by Silicon Valley special interests. It gives some of the biggest companies in the world a free ride at the expense of consumers and should be immediately repealed!
5	May 18	8:53:00 p.m.	24,163	In 2015, wealthy leftist billionaires and powerful Silicon Valley monopolies took the internet out of the hands of the people and placed it firmly under the thumb of the federal government, monopolies like Google and global billionaires like George Soros.

Note: Data here only include matches with a cosine similarity value of 1 on a scale of 0-1.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of online submissions to the FCC’s net neutrality public comment form from April 27 to Aug. 30, 2017. “Public Comments to the Federal Communications Commission About Net Neutrality Contain Many Inaccuracies and Duplicates.”

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### Off-topic comments

Some comments submitted to the FCC had nothing to do with net neutrality and appeared to be attempts by users to further complicate the data collection:

- At least 34 comments included references to Bee Movie, some of which contained portions of the movie’s script.
- Fully 108 comments had more non-alphanumeric characters – such as equal signs (=) or ampersands (&) – than alphanumeric characters.
- Others consisted entirely of short messages without a clear meaning, such as: “get a hobby,” “Democracy,” “cat videos,” “google it,” “SAD!” and “!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Of course, the fact that many comments were submitted at precisely the same time does not mean the organization or webpage where the text first appeared was responsible for automating or standardizing those submissions. It is possible a third party used the text and submitted these comments on its own. Nor is there anything inherently wrong or sinister about bulk filing of comments. This analysis simply highlights the scale at which digital tools are being brought to bear in the long-standing practice of commenting on proposed government rules.

## The comment period was marked by bursts of intense activity and long stretches with few submissions

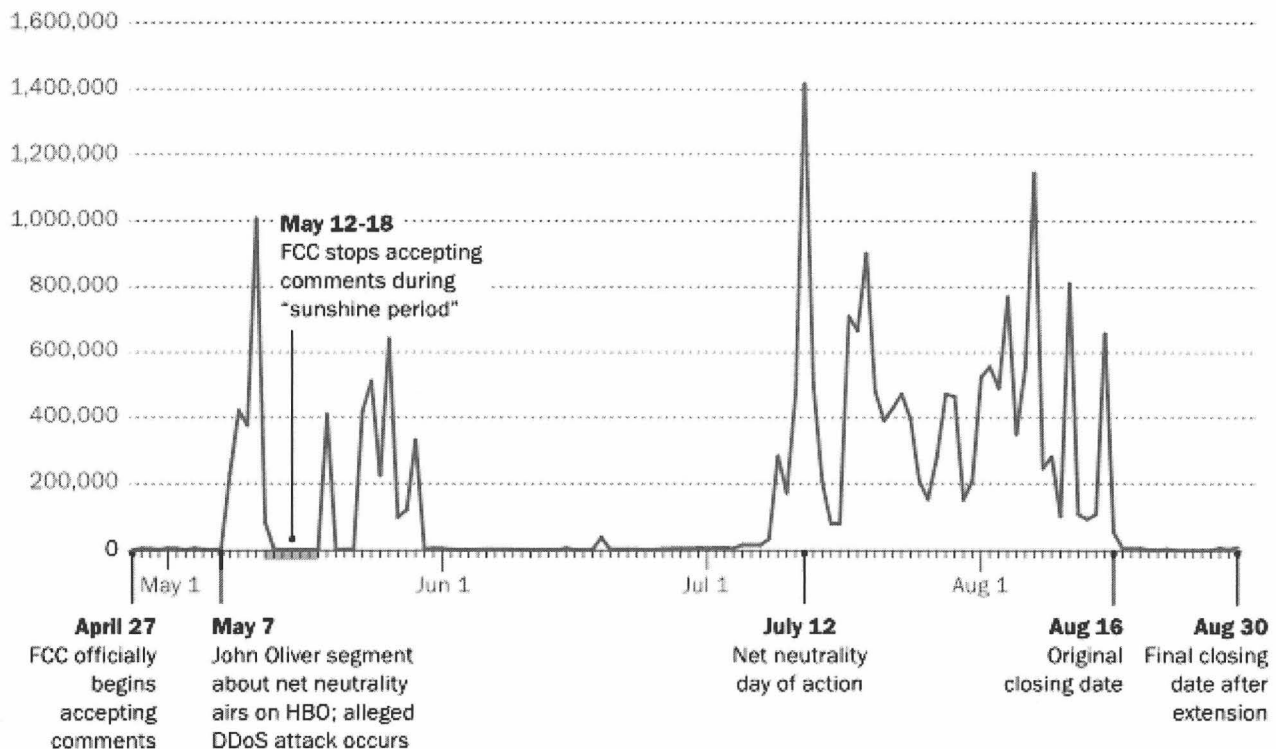
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During the four-month period in which the FCC accepted comments on net neutrality, an average of 172,246 posts were submitted per day. But the comment period featured several long stretches with few submissions, punctuated by bursts of intense activity.

## FCC net neutrality comment period marked by bursts of intense activity, long periods of inactivity

Number of comments per day, April 27-Aug. 30, 2017



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of online submissions to the FCC's net neutrality public comment form.  
 "Public Comments to the Federal Communications Commission About Net Neutrality Contain Many Inaccuracies and Duplicates"

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The comment period officially opened on April 27, and only 453 comments were submitted on that day. On Sunday, May 7, two major events occurred that coincided with a significant increase in submissions. That evening, comedian John Oliver broadcasted a nearly 20-minute segment (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92vuuZt7wak>) on his HBO show Last Week Tonight defending net neutrality and encouraging his viewers to submit comments supporting his position. The last time the FCC considered net neutrality in 2014, a Pew Research Center analysis showed (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/09/05/what-drove-spike-in-public-comments-on-net-neutrality-likely-a-comedian/>) that John Oliver's program also led to a spike in the number of comments submitted.

Also on May 7, the FCC issued a news release (<https://www.fcc.gov/document/statement-fcc-cio-denial-service-attack-fcc-comment-system>) stating that a distributed denial of service attack (DDoS) occurred against the electronic filing system. Some critics have questioned whether an actual DDoS attack occurred, noting that the FCC did not provide documentation ([https://gizmodo.com/fcc-now-says-there-is-no-documented-analysis-of-the-cyb-1797073113?utm\\_campaign=socialflow\\_gizmodo\\_twitter&utm\\_source=gizmodo\\_twitter&utm\\_medium=socialflow](https://gizmodo.com/fcc-now-says-there-is-no-documented-analysis-of-the-cyb-1797073113?utm_campaign=socialflow_gizmodo_twitter&utm_source=gizmodo_twitter&utm_medium=socialflow)) regarding the attack following a Freedom of Information Act request

feedback





# 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 handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Kawasaki".

Representative Scott Kawasaki  
City of Fairbanks

