

October 17, 2016

Tom Wheeler
Chairman

Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner

Michael O’Rielly
Commissioner

Ajit Pai
Commissioner

Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Realizing the Promise of the Open
Internet

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners:

The FCC has several big opportunities now to protect consumers in the digital age. Among them are two pending proceedings on this month’s agenda and one informal investigation that the FCC must act on as soon as possible: the set-top box rulemaking, the broadband privacy rulemaking, and the zero rating investigation. Each of these issues has been discussed by policymakers for years, if not decades. Further delay would put internet users’ privacy in jeopardy and undermine longstanding efforts to make internet, cable and satellite services more affordable and open.

This Commission has made bold and historic moves to dismantle technological barriers to free and unfettered speech, making tools for generating content more accessible, and networks for sharing and reading more egalitarian. Chief among this Commission’s accomplishments was the historic Open Internet Order, which set in place protections to help ensure that the world’s most powerful platform for democratic speech and association does not become an oligarchy of closely curated and censored speech.

But there is still much left to do. The below-signed 76 groups and the American public therefore call on you to liberate consumers from the set-top box monopoly, helping lower prices and creating more choice for consumers and opportunities for small and independent programmers eager to grow their audience; to promulgate rules that foster trust in the integrity of broadband privacy so that consumers will readily use the internet, without self-censoring, for learning, expression, and association; and to prohibit abusive data caps and zero rating plans that violate net neutrality.

Each day that passes without marking progress on these important issues is another day of missed opportunities. We thank you for your continuing commitment to protecting consumers and promoting free and open access to critical communications

networks and technologies. We urge you to move forward without delay on these important issues.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org
Access Fort Wayne
Access Humboldt
Access Now
Access Sonoma Broadband
AccessVision
Akaku Maui Community Media
Alliance for Community Media
Alternate ROOTS
Appalshop, Inc.
Arts & Democracy
Benton Foundation
Black Education Network
Broadband Alliance of Mendocino
County
California Center for Rural Policy
Campaign for a Commercial-Free
Childhood
Center for Digital Democracy
Center for Media Justice
Center for Rural Strategies
Chicago Consumer Coalition
Color Of Change
Common Cause
Consumer Federation of California
Consumer Watchdog
Consumers Union
Courage Campaign
CTV Channel Six - St. Clair
Daily Kos
Demand Progress
Electronic Frontier Foundation
Fight for the Future
Free Press
FREE! Families Rally for Emancipation
and Empowerment
Generation Justice

Global Action Project
Ho'ike Kauai Community Television
Human Rights Defense Center
Image Marketing
Institute for Local Self-Reliance
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de
California
Line Break Media
Martinez Street Women's Center
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition
May First/People Link
Media Action Center
Media Alliance
Media Council Hawaii
Media Mobilizing Project
Michigan Chapter ACM
MomsRising
National Association of Consumer
Advocates
National Consumer Law Center, on
behalf of its low-income clients
National Digital Inclusion Alliance
National Hispanic Media Coalition
(NHMC)
Native Public Media
New America's Open Technology
Institute
Open Access Connections
Open MIC (Open Media and
Information Companies Initiative)
OpenMedia
OVEC (Ohio Valley Environmental
Coalition)
Oxford Community Television
PhillyCAM
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
Progressive Technology Project

Public Citizen
Public Knowledge
Public Media Network
The Greenlining Institute
The People's Press Project
The Utility Reform Network (TURN)
Tribal Digital Village Network (TDVNet)

U.S. PIRG
Urbana-Champaign Independent Media
Center
WACA TV
Working Films
X-Lab