



NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

The Forum for America's Ideas

July 17, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Bruce W. Starr
*Senator
Oregon
President, NCSL*

Thomas W. Wright
*Chief of Staff to Speaker
Alaska
Staff Chair, NCSL*

William T. Pound
Executive Director

RE: Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet (GN Docket No. 14-28)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), I write in response to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking public comment on how best to protect and promote an open Internet. NCSL has long supported policies promoting an open, accessible and vibrant Internet consistent with the principles of "light touch" regulation. As the FCC considers a course of action on this matter, we are concerned that any efforts to adopt burdensome requirements on providers could only serve to stifle consumer choice, technological innovation, industry investments and the economic well being of the states.

As you know, the exponential growth of the Internet has flourished as a result of the combination of the government's 'hand's off' approach, ever increasing competition and high consumer demand. Over regulation of the Internet will interfere with future investment and innovations advancing the health and well-being of its end user customers. Consumers should be given a choice when it comes to selecting a broadband connection that will meet their current and future needs for speed, reliability and quality of service. Concurrently, companies that invest in broadband and broadband-related applications should be afforded the flexibility to explore fair and competitive business models and pricing plans for their products and services.

As more Americans rely on the Internet for increasingly sophisticated and bandwidth-intensive applications, it is ever more critical that broadband providers have the flexibility to manage this surge in traffic through a variety of means, including adding more capacity and employing network management capabilities without government mandates. NCSL urges the FCC to maintain the current minimal regulatory approach that allows the competitive marketplace to drive broadband and broadband-related application development and deployment.

I appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns. Should you have any questions, please contact James Ward in our Washington, D.C. office at 202-624-8683 or james.ward@ncsl.org

Sincerely,

William T. Pound
Executive Director
National Conference of State Legislatures

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