

**April 10, 2019**

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515**

Dear Members of the United States House of Representatives:

**We the undersigned 100 organizations urge House members to pass the *Save the Internet Act* (H.R. 1644), restoring the strong protections for net neutrality and broadband access guaranteed by the 2015 *Open Internet Order*.**

Since the repeal of the *Open Internet Order* by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in December 2017, millions of Americans have been fighting to protect an open and accessible internet and calling on Congress to restore vital protections for universal communications rights, small business innovation, and free speech online.

Additionally, net neutrality continues to receive overwhelming bipartisan support across the country, with the latest polling showing that 4 in 5 Americans support net neutrality, including 77% of Republicans.<sup>1</sup>

In the year since the FCC took away the 2015 *Open Internet Order*, we have seen some very troubling and dangerous activities by big cable and telephone companies:

- Verizon slowed down the Santa Clara fire department's data in the midst of one the worst wildfires in California history;<sup>2</sup>
- The largest U.S. telecom companies were caught slowing streaming speeds to popular applications like YouTube and Netflix;<sup>3</sup>
- Centurylink blocked internet access to force customers to view specific ads;<sup>4</sup>
- AT&T gave preference to its own video services by not having its video data count against customers' monthly data caps.<sup>5</sup>
- Sprint has been accused of interfering with Skype, which provides an alternative to wireless carriers' voice, video or messaging services

Despite empty rhetoric by open internet opponents, the 2015 *Open Internet Order* did not harm broadband investment from 2015-2017, nor is broadband investment, deployment, or speed increasing since the FCC's repeal.

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<sup>1</sup>[Birnbaum, Emily \(2019\). 4 in 5 Americans say they support net neutrality: poll. The Hill](#)

<sup>2</sup>[Brodkin, Jon \(2018\) Verizon throttled fire department's "unlimited" data during Calif. Wildfire. Ars Technica](#)

<sup>3</sup>[Kharif, Olga \(2018\). YouTube, Netflix Videos Found to Be Slowed by Wireless Carriers. Bloomberg](#)

<sup>4</sup>[Brodkin, Jon \(2018\). CenturyLink blocked its customers' Internet access in order to show an ad. Ars Technica](#)

<sup>5</sup>[Bode, Karl \(2018\). How the new AT&T could bully its way to streaming domination. The Verge](#)

While advocates seek redress in court to overturn the FCC's disastrous *Open Internet Order* repeal, the *Save the Internet Act* will reaffirm Congress's intent and support for broadband users' rights. Passing this bill would help reestablish important net neutrality protections while the court case challenging the FCC's net neutrality repeal proceeds through months, or even years, of additional appeals. The House should pass this bill without any harmful amendments, and without any consideration of a Motion to Recommit or other substitute designed to water down, weaken, or fatally wound it.

**We call on you to enact the will of hundreds of millions of people who support open internet protections and broadband competition, and the millions who have taken action demanding them, by passing the *Save the Internet Act*.**

Americans want and deserve enforceable protections that preserve net neutrality, ensure stronger broadband competition, and improve access. They don't want big cable and phone companies controlling what they see, say, and do online. They want more choices and more affordable internet access service.

**The *Save the Internet Act* is the best chance we have to restore real net neutrality and an open and accessible internet for everyone in America.** We urge you to support this important bill that will restore strong open internet protections.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org

350.org

Access Humboldt

Access Now

The Alliance for Media Arts + Culture

Alternate ROOTS

American Alliance of Museums

American Association of Law Libraries

American Family Voices

Americans for the Arts

American Library Association

Appalshop

Arts & Democracy

Association of Performing Arts Professionals

Association of Research Libraries

The Authors Guild

BAN/e-Stewards

California Clean Money Campaign

California League of Conservation Voters

Cascade Educational Broadcast Service (XRAY.fm)  
CASH Music  
Center for Democracy and Technology  
Center for Media Justice  
Center for Rural Strategies  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Color of Change  
Common Cause  
Consumer Reports  
Courage Campaign  
Coworker.org  
CreaTV San Jose  
Daily Kos  
The Data-Driven Institute  
Demand Progress  
Democracy for America  
Dance/USA  
Earth On-the-Air Independent Media  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Emerald Onion  
Engine  
EveryLibrary  
Faithful Internet  
Fight for the Future  
Folk Alliance International  
Free Press Action  
Friends of the Earth  
Future of Music Coalition  
Global Action Project  
Greenpeace  
The Greenlining Institute  
Harry Potter Alliance  
Indivisible  
Line Break Media  
Make Shift  
Martinez Street Women's Center  
Media Action Center  
Media Alliance  
Media Mobilizing Project  
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice  
Mississippi Center for Cultural Production  
MomsRising  
The Nation

National Consumer Law Center  
National Digital Inclusion Alliance  
National Federation of Community Broadcasters  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
National Organization for Women  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
Oakland Privacy  
Open Access Connections  
OpenMedia  
Open MIC (Open Media and Information Companies Initiative)  
Open Seattle  
Other98  
OVEC - Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
PEN America  
People Demanding Action  
People For the American Way  
Popular Resistance  
Power 2 The Poetry  
Presente.org  
Progress America  
Prometheus Radio Project  
Public Citizen  
Public Knowledge  
Radio Tacoma  
RootsAction.org  
Scribe Video Center  
Social Security Works  
SumOfUs  
Theatre Communications Group  
TURN - The Utility Reform Network  
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.  
U.S. Department of Arts and Culture  
Watchdog.net  
Win Without War  
Women In Film, Los Angeles  
Women's Media Center  
Working Narratives  
Writers Guild of America West