

February 14, 2018

Dear Member of Congress:

**We, the undersigned 54 progressive organizations, urge you to cosponsor, discharge, and then vote for the Markey-Doyle “resolution of disapproval” that would overturn the Federal Communications Commission’s recent rollback of Net Neutrality protections.** Despite the talk of other legislation emanating from cable and phone company lobbyists, and also curiously coming from Members of Congress that have long opposed Net Neutrality, no other legislation currently introduced or likely to be introduced can restore the rights the FCC’s rollback wrongly took away.

**Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress can pass a resolution of disapproval to nullify FCC Chairman Pai’s repeal of Net Neutrality protections** -- the so-called “Restoring Internet Freedom” Order. Doing so would leave us with the strong Net Neutrality protections adopted in 2015, which were based on the firm and successful legal grounding of Title II of the Communications Act.

Internet freedom activists, grassroots organizers, social justice advocates, labor unions, and progressive organizations like ours oppose Pai’s assault on our ability to communicate and connect. The internet has been a transformative tool for free speech and for organizing in furtherance of civil rights and social and economic justice. A free and open internet enables political dissidents and marginalized communities to make their voices heard on their own terms -- without being stifled or warped by corporate gatekeepers such as broadband internet service providers (ISPs).

Strong Net Neutrality rules have overwhelming bipartisan support from the American people. Since the late 1990s, under Republican and Democratic leadership alike, the FCC sought to enforce at least some basic principles preventing ISPs from picking winners and losers on the internet by blocking or discriminating against certain kinds of content or applications. If Congress allows Pai’s plan to take effect, Net Neutrality rules and principles long upheld by both parties would be repealed in their entirety without a replacement -- leaving activists, consumers, and businesses without defense against ISP interference.

**A resolution of disapproval avoids the pitfalls and present impossibility of negotiating a new Net Neutrality bill.** We oppose other current legislative proposals like Rep. Blackburn’s wholly inadequate bill, and Republican leadership has made it abundantly clear that it will not allow a vote on legislation that affords the same protections the FCC previously enforced. Meanwhile, a resolution of disapproval would restore those protections.

**Even attempting to negotiate new Net Neutrality legislation in this Congress would be risky, because such a bill invariably would be watered down by ISP lobbying.** In the end, any such supposed compromise would fail to safeguard both the openness principles enshrined in the 2015 rules and the other communications rights current law commands the FCC to uphold. Passing a resolution of

disapproval instead would be like hitting the “undo” button, restoring the Net Neutrality rules and the legal framework for these nondiscrimination rights.

**We urge you and your colleagues to protect the free and open internet and the benefits it provides by cosponsoring, discharging, and then voting for the resolution of disapproval and by opposing other purported Net Neutrality legislation in this Congress that does not and cannot restore internet users rights.**

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org  
350.org  
Action Together Network  
Alliance for Quality Education  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Family Voices  
Center for Media Justice  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Climate Hawks Vote  
Color Of Change  
Common Cause  
Courage Campaign  
Coworker.org  
Daily Kos  
Demand Progress  
Democracy for America  
Demos  
Fight for the Future  
Free Press Action Fund  
Friends of the Earth  
Future of Music Coalition  
Generation Justice  
Indivisible  
#LoveArmy  
Media Alliance  
Media Mobilizing Project  
MomsRising  
MoveOn.org  
MPower Change  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
Native Public Media  
NextGen America  
Oakland Privacy  
OpenMedia  
Our Revolution  
Pantsuit Nation

People For the American Way  
PopularResistance.org  
Presente Action  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Progressive Congress Action Fund  
Protect Our Internet  
Public Citizen  
Revolving Door Project  
RootsAction.org  
SumOfUs  
The Dream Corps  
The Nation  
Win Without War  
Women In Media & News  
Working Families Party  
Working Narratives  
Writers Guild of America, East  
Writers Guild of America, West