

June 11, 2019

**Senator Mitch McConnell**  
**Senate Majority Leader**  
**317 Russell Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

In April, the House of Representatives passed the ***Save the Internet Act*** (H.R.1644) with bipartisan support. This critical bill restores net neutrality and broadband competition protections for all Americans, ensuring that rural and underserved communities gain access to the internet and that big cable companies are not able to control what people do, see, and say online.

**We the undersigned 103 organizations urge you to listen to the American public and to immediately bring the *Save the Internet Act* (S.682) to a vote in the Senate.**

Today marks one year since the FCC made the unpopular decision to officially kill net neutrality and broadband protections for the American people. On the one-year anniversary of the end of the *Open Internet Order*, we encourage the Senate to join your House colleagues in implementing the will of your constituents — 4 in 5 of whom support net neutrality, including 77% of Republicans, according to recent polling.<sup>1</sup>

Since the repeal of the *Open Internet Order* by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 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.

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 of 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>

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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](#)

- AT&T gave preference to its own video services by not having its video data count against customers' monthly data caps;<sup>5</sup> and
- Sprint has been accused of interfering with Skype, which provides an alternative to wireless carriers' voice, video, or messaging services.<sup>6</sup>

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.

While advocates seek redress in court to overturn the FCC's disastrous repeal, Senate passage of 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. Like the House, the Senate should pass this bill without any harmful amendments designed to water down, weaken, or fatally wound it.

**Senator McConnell, 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 allowing Senators to vote on 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 to restore real net neutrality and an open and accessible internet for everyone in America.** We urge the Senate to move forward on this important bill that will restore strong open internet protections.

Sincerely,

18MillionRising.org  
350.org  
Access Humboldt  
Access Now  
Alliance for Community Media  
Alternate ROOTS  
American Alliance of Museums  
American Association of Law Libraries  
American Family Voices

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

<sup>6</sup>[Kharif, Olga \(2018\). \*Sprint Is Throttling Microsoft's Skype Service, Study Finds\*. Bloomberg](#)

American Library Association  
Americans for the Arts  
Appalshop, Inc.  
Arts & Democracy  
Association of Art Museum Directors  
Association of Performing Arts Professionals  
Association of Research Libraries  
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  
Coalition of Religious Communicators Associations  
Color Of Change  
Common Cause  
Common Dreams  
Consumer Reports  
Corporate Accountability  
Courage Campaign  
CreaTV San Jose  
Daily Kos  
Dance/USA  
Demand Progress  
Democracy for America  
Dream Corp  
Electronic Frontier Foundation  
Emerald Onion  
Engine  
EveryLibrary  
Faithful Internet  
Fight for the Future  
Folk Alliance International  
Franciscan Action Network  
Free Press Action  
Friends of the Earth  
Future of Music Coalition  
Greenpeace  
Harry Potter Alliance  
Indivisible  
Institute for Intellectual Property & Social Justice

Just Foreign Policy  
KEXP  
Line Break Media  
Make Shift  
Media Access Project  
Media Action Center  
Media Alliance  
Media Mobilizing Project  
Million Hoodies Movement for Justice  
Mississippi Center for Cultural Production  
National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients  
National Council of Churches USA  
National Digital Inclusion Alliance  
National Federation of Community Broadcasters  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
National Organization for Women  
Native Public Media  
New America's Open Technology Institute  
Oakland Privacy  
Open Access Connections  
OpenMedia  
Other98  
OVEC-Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition  
PEN America  
People Demanding Action  
People For the American Way  
Prometheus Radio Project  
Popular Resistance  
Presente.org  
Progress America  
Public Citizen  
Public Knowledge  
Revolving Door Project  
RootsAction.org  
Social Security Works  
SumOfUs.org  
The Alliance for Media Arts + Culture  
The Authors Guild  
The Greenlining Institute  
The Nation  
Theatre Communications Group  
TURN - The Utility Reform Network  
United Church of Christ, OC Inc.

Watchdog.net

Web Foundation

Win Without War

Women In Film, Los Angeles

Women's Institute for freedom of the press

Working Narratives

Writers Guild of America West

X-Lab