

# THE FREE COMMUNITY PAPER INDUSTRY

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
Committee  
2161 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce  
2204 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology  
2182 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology  
205 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 16, 2011

## **Re: Preserving an Open, Nondiscriminatory Internet**

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the united Free Community Paper Industry, we write to express our strong support for the Open Internet and oppose repeal of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Open Internet rules through the Congressional Review Act. Using the Congressional Review Act would eliminate the current FCC rules and would prevent the FCC from preserving the Open Internet in the future.

Community Papers firmly believe that an open and nondiscriminatory Internet is critical to fair competition and the survival of the local media ecosystem.

The free community paper industry has been providing truly local news and information to our readers for over half a century. Collectively, we've served nearly every community in America long before the "pay to read" model of dissemination began to erode. For us, "hyper-local" is not the latest buzzword or strategic bandwagon; rather instead it is our enduring business model.

No shortage of major players, from legacy media to data aggregators, are just now "discovering" the untapped promise of our neighborhoods, real or imagined. In the competition for advertising dollars with our own phone service providers, we rest assured that inbound calls to our sales departments will not be met with artificial busy signals or rerouted to our carrier's Yellow Book representatives. But today, our internet-based communications would receive no such treatment under force of law if these fair competition rules are repealed.

It's no secret that print advertising revenues are shifting online. The future of our industry's collective enterprise depends on our readership having uncompromised access to our websites. Fair and robust competition in the digital age can only be achieved by equal access and neutral treatment of traffic across platforms and devices.

Sincerely,

Association of Free Community Papers  
Mid-Atlantic Community Papers Association  
Free Community Papers of New York  
Midwest Free Community Papers  
Community Papers of Ohio and West Virginia  
Community Papers of Florida  
Community Papers of Michigan  
Southeastern Advertising Publishers Association  
Texas Community Newspaper Association  
Wisconsin Community Papers