

February 16, 2011

Dear Chairman Upton, Ranking Member Waxman, Chairman Walden, and Ranking Member Eshoo:

The below signed organizations support the Open Internet and oppose any attempt to repeal the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Open Internet rules through the Congressional Review Act. Utilizing the Congressional Review Act would not only eliminate the current FCC rules, it would eliminate the FCC's ability to protect innovation, speech, and commerce on broadband platforms on behalf of the American people.

The Internet has been and must remain an open platform. Regardless of political or social values, an Open Internet increases opportunities for all persons and communities, increases diversity of opinions and thought, and ensures that consumers and entrepreneurs alike can engage in and benefit from the opportunities afforded by access to the Internet. An Open Internet is also an engine for economic growth, innovation, and job creation.

The FCC has adopted a framework that the agency believes will preserve the Open Internet. We wholeheartedly support preservation of the FCC's authority to implement such rules. This framework was adopted in a proceeding in which broadband service providers, Internet companies, civil rights groups, labor organizations, and public interest groups all participated.

We urge Congress not to utilize the Congressional Review Act, given the negative consequences of its enactment. Instead, we hope that Congress will work to preserve openness online and to move forward expeditiously in implementation of the National Broadband Plan. Undertaking such initiatives would improve broadband deployment and adoption opportunities for all Americans, including individuals in typically rural and other underserved populations and in communities of color too often denied a meaningful opportunity to participate in the new economy.

For these reasons, we urge you to ensure that all your constituents can continue to benefit from an Open Internet, and we stand ready to work with Congress to preserve an Open Internet.

Respectfully submitted,

Access Humboldt
AFL-CIO
Alliance for Community Media
Alliance for Digital Equality
Alliance for Justice
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Civil Liberties Union
Amnesty International USA
Applied Research Center
Arizona Progress Action
Berkeley Community Media
Blue Green Alliance
Bold Nebraska
CCTV Center for Media and Democracy
Center for Democracy and Technology
Center for Media Justice
Center for Rural Strategies
Center for Social Inclusion
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Common Cause
Communications Workers of America
Community Media Workshop
Consumer Federation of America
Consumers Union
Creative Coworking
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
Evanston Community Media Center
First Voice Media
Free Press
Future of Music Coalition
Houston Interfaith Worker Justice
iarte design
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de
California
International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers
Keystone Progress
KUMN Youth Radio
Latinos for Internet Freedom
Latino Print Network
League of United Latin American Citizens
Main Street Project
Media Access Project
Media Alliance
Media Justice League
Media Literacy Project
Media Mobilizing Project

National Alliance for Media, Art, and
Culture
National Association of Hispanic
Journalists
National Congress of American Indians
National Consumers League
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers
Trade Association
National Network for Immigrant and
Refugee Rights
New America Foundation
New York Community Media Alliance
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
One Wisconsin Now
onShore Networks
Open Access Connections
Pineros Y Campesinos Unidos del
Noroeste, Oregon's Farmworker
Union
People Organizing to Demand
Environmental and Economic Rights
People's Production House
People's Channel
Praxis Project
Presente.org
Progressive Tech Project
Progress Michigan
ProgressNow Nevada Action
ProgressOhio
Prometheus Radio Project
Public Knowledge
Quote/Unquote, Inc.
Reclaim the Media
Sierra Club
Southwest Organizing Project
Southwest Workers Union
SpiritHouse
The Highlander Research and Education
Center
Thousand Kites
Transmission Project
United Auto Workers
United Church of Christ, Office of
Communication, Inc.
UNITY: Journalists of Color
Writers Guild of America, West