



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 9, 2014

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
U.S. House of Representatives
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

Thank you for writing to express your concerns regarding the reinstatement of rules that would preserve a free and Open Internet for all Americans. In your letter, you express opposition to the Federal Communications Commission issuing Open Internet rules and state that application of antitrust laws would better achieve net neutrality principles. Your letter will be included in the record of this proceeding.

I believe that the Internet must remain an open platform for free expression, innovation, and economic growth. We cannot allow broadband networks to cut special deals to prioritize Internet traffic and harm consumers, competition, and innovation.

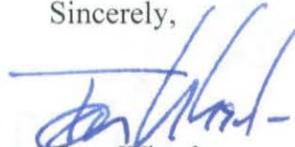
Like you, I strongly believe in the rigorous application of antitrust laws. However, there has been a decade of consistent action by the Commission to protect and promote the Internet as an open platform for innovation, competition, economic growth, and free expression. At the core of all of these Commission efforts has been a view endorsed by four Chairmen and a majority of the Commission's members in office during that time: that FCC oversight is essential to protect the openness that is critical to the Internet's success. Strong, enforceable Open Internet rules can work in tandem with antitrust law to meet net neutrality principles, protect consumers, and promote free expression.

As you know, after the D.C. Circuit decision, the Commission sought comment on how to best reinstate Open Internet rules in order to protect consumers and continue promoting investment and innovation online. We sought comment on using either or both of Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act and Title II of the Communications Act to protect what the court described as the "virtuous circle" of innovation that fosters broadband deployment and protects consumers. I promised that in this process all options would be on the table in order to identify the best legal approach to keeping the Internet open.

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I look forward to continuing to receive input from stakeholders, the public, members of Congress of both parties, and my fellow commissioners. Ten years have passed since the Commission started down the road towards enforceable Open Internet rules. We must take the time to get the job done correctly, once and for all, in order to protect consumers and innovators online successfully.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler