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**For Immediate Release****FTC, FCC OUTLINE AGREEMENT TO COORDINATE ONLINE  
CONSUMER PROTECTION EFFORTS FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF  
THE RESTORING INTERNET FREEDOM ORDER*****Federal Agencies Intend to Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Allocate  
Enforcement Responsibilities***

WASHINGTON, December 11, 2017—The Federal Trade Commission and Federal Communications Commission announced their intent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under which the two agencies would coordinate online consumer protection efforts following the adoption of the *Restoring Internet Freedom Order*.

“The Memorandum of Understanding will be a critical benefit for online consumers because it outlines the robust process by which the FCC and FTC will safeguard the public interest,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “Instead of saddling the Internet with heavy-handed regulations, we will work together to take targeted action against bad actors. This approach protected a free and open Internet for many years prior to the FCC’s 2015 *Title II Order* and it will once again following the adoption of the *Restoring Internet Freedom Order*.”

“The FTC is committed to ensuring that Internet service providers live up to the promises they make to consumers,” said Acting FTC Chairman Maureen K. Ohlhausen. “The MOU we are developing with the FCC, in addition to the decades of FTC law enforcement experience in this area, will help us carry out this important work.”

The draft MOU, which is being released today, outlines a number of ways in which the FCC and FTC will work together to protect consumers, including:

- The FCC will review informal complaints concerning the compliance of Internet service providers (ISPs) with the disclosure obligations set forth in the new transparency rule. Those obligations include publicly providing information concerning an ISP’s practices with respect to blocking, throttling, paid prioritization, and congestion management. Should an ISP fail to make the required disclosures—either in whole or in part—the FCC will take enforcement action.
- The FTC will investigate and take enforcement action as appropriate against ISPs concerning the accuracy of those disclosures, as well as other deceptive or unfair acts or practices involving their broadband services.

- The FCC and the FTC will broadly share legal and technical expertise, including the secure sharing of informal complaints regarding the subject matter of the *Restoring Internet Freedom Order*. The two agencies also will collaborate on consumer and industry outreach and education.

The FCC's proposed *Restoring Internet Freedom Order*, which the agency is expected to vote on at its December 14 meeting, would reverse a 2015 agency decision to reclassify broadband Internet access service as a Title II common carrier service. This previous decision stripped the FTC of its authority to protect consumers and promote competition with respect to Internet service providers because the FTC does not have jurisdiction over common carrier activities.

The FCC's *Restoring Internet Freedom Order* would return jurisdiction to the FTC to police the conduct of ISPs, including with respect to their privacy practices. Once adopted, the [order](#) will also require broadband Internet access service providers to disclose their network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of service. As the nation's top consumer protection agency, the FTC will be responsible for holding these providers to the promises they make to consumers.

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for implementing and enforcing America's communications law and regulations. You can learn more about the FCC's [initiatives](#), file a [consumer complaint online](#) or visit the [consumer help center](#). Like the FCC on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), read our [blogs](#), and visit the [website](#) for the latest FCC news and resources.

The Federal Trade Commission works to [promote competition](#), and [protect and educate consumers](#). You can [learn more about consumer topics](#) and file a [consumer complaint online](#) or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357). Like the FTC on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), read our [blogs](#) and [subscribe to press releases](#) for the latest FTC news and resources.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*