



April 9, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-222, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman, Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Chairman Pallone, and Ranking Member Walden:

As providers of broadband services to tens of millions of Americans, we are committed to net neutrality, requiring transparency in our network practices, and establishing enforceable protections against data blocking, throttling or anti-competitive paid prioritization arrangements. We support the enactment of a bipartisan federal net neutrality law that will ensure the continued growth and development of the internet, while maintaining the open internet that all consumers deserve.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1644, the “Save the Internet Act,” is not that law.

First, the internet doesn’t need saving. Since 1996, our industries have invested over \$1.6 *trillion* of private capital to increase broadband deployment and adoption in the United States. Today, our industries employ more than 700,000 Americans and create millions of other jobs across our economy. Fueled by this investment, broadband has become one of the greatest engines of economic growth in our nation’s history. Consumers have overwhelmingly benefited from this investment, experiencing greater coverage, higher speeds, more competition, and lower prices over an open internet.

Second, the legal framework that the “Save the Internet Act” would apply to broadband will actually harm the Internet. For all but two years of the internet’s history, there has been a bipartisan consensus that it should not be subject to common carrier regulation. Under this light touch, the open internet flourished. By contrast, Title II, with its roots in the 1880s, is built on a set of assumptions about technology, market structures, and investment incentives designed for a much different era of monopoly railroads and phone companies. This framework is a poor fit for the competitive, dynamic, and innovative internet marketplace of today, leading to a decline in broadband investment. Americans and our internet deserve better.

The costs of this misguided approach, ultimately, fall on consumers, in the form of reduced innovation and slower economic growth. In contrast, since the FCC reclassified broadband as a Title I information service, we have seen an uptick in investment, innovation, and adoption in broadband networks.

Congress has the clear authority to establish bright-line, modern and enforceable net neutrality rules *without* burdening the internet with other Title II requirements and regulations. By doing so, Congress would resolve this issue once and for all, ending the fifteen-year counterproductive and anti-consumer tug-of-war.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to reject H.R. 1644. We look forward to working with Congress to craft bipartisan net neutrality legislation that ensures an open internet and delivers enduring protections for consumers seamlessly across the entire internet ecosystem, without sacrificing innovation and network investment.

Sincerely,



Michael Powell
President & CEO
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association



Jonathan Spalter
President & CEO
USTelecom – The Broadband Association



Meredith Attwell Baker
President and CEO
CTIA