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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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July 17, 2014

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Internet has already transformed the way Americans conduct business, visit their doctor, earn an education and engage in commerce. Even more promising is the potential that the Internet holds to continue driving economic growth, spurring innovation, giving a voice to those who have been silenced and expanding opportunities across the globe. For the Internet to remain the great tool of democracy, it must be protected and remain free. As the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) considers new open Internet rules, it is essential that they are clear and effective.

In the wake of the ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit earlier this year, the FCC must of course take action and aggressively pursue new open Internet rules. Since the court's decision, hundreds of thousands of individuals, businesses, consumer advocates, interest groups and legal experts have contacted the FCC to provide feedback on how best to protect an open Internet that will continue to protect consumers and encourage economic growth. I believe there are legitimate concerns about the May 2014 FCC proposed rule regarding the authority under existing law the FCC may use to make critical decisions regarding the future regulatory landscape and the types of business agreements that could be permitted.

Internet users, consumers and businesses deserve a level playing field when it comes to accessing and using the Internet. That's why I strongly encourage you to consider all of the ideas presented that would ensure that online discrimination does not become the reality of the Internet, including asserting the FCC's authority under Title II of the Communications Act to meet this goal.

In addition, as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee, I have a strong interest in ensuring robust competition for all users of the Internet. An open and fair Internet marketplace is essential to that end and antitrust law alone cannot prevent discrimination and anticompetitive practices, nor does it account for important societal values of consumer protection and civic engagement.

In order for the Internet to remain open and free, we must have clear rules of the road in place that protect consumers and provide the private sector with the certainty needed to invest and innovate.

Thank you for your consideration and your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator