



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 9, 2014

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for writing to express your support for the President's statement on the need to reinstate rules to preserve a free and Open Internet for all Americans. I am also pleased that you shared the 40,000 comments that you received from your constituents on the Open Internet proceeding. Your letter, along with those comments, will be included in the record of this proceeding.

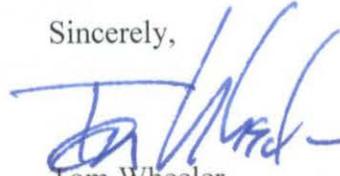
As I have expressed since the D.C. Circuit's decision in the *Verizon* case earlier this year, I am committed to moving with dispatch to reinstate strong, enforceable rules with dispatch in order to safeguard consumers and further promote investment and innovation. The President's statement is an important and welcome addition to the record of the Open Internet proceeding. Like the President, I believe that the Internet must remain an open platform for free expression, innovation, and economic growth. And we both oppose Internet fast lanes – we cannot allow broadband networks to cut special deals to prioritize Internet traffic and harm consumers, competition, and innovation.

As an independent regulatory agency, we will incorporate the President's submission into the record of the Open Internet proceeding. We welcome comment on it and how it proposes to use Title II of the Communications Act to achieve the objectives set forth in the Commission's Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

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 investment and 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.

I am grateful for the input of the President and look forward to continuing to receive input from all stakeholders, including 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