

July 6, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, DC 20554

Subj: In the Matter of Restoring Internet Freedom, WC Docket No. 17-108

Dear Chairman Pai:

The Mt. Hood Cable Regulatory Commission (MHCRC) submits comments to the Federal Communications Commission in this proceeding to express our firm support for the principles of net neutrality—the **free and unfettered exchange of information** between people and organizations, with no bandwidth preferences based on the nature of content, authorship, or affiliation. These principles have been and must continue to be essential values guiding the on-going development of modern communications technology including the internet.

The MHCRC is the intergovernmental partnership that oversees Oregon’s regional cable franchises for Portland, Multnomah County, and the east county cities of Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village.

As long ago as 1998, the MHCRC took the public policy position that **non-discriminatory, open access** must be a fundamental aspect of the Internet, with providers not undertaking the role of acting as gatekeepers to the public’s ability to send and receive content.

The Portland City Council joined in the MHCRC’s position of supporting this fundamental position that **non-discriminatory, open access** must be a protected, core component of the internet. The ability to engage in the free, unfettered exchange of information cannot co-exist with restrictions based on concepts of “pay to play”. Unreasonable discrimination and blockage or restriction of access to content based on commercial affiliations or ability to purchase the “fast lane” are incompatible with concepts of non-discriminatory, open access.

At the local government level, we are intimately familiar with how important high-speed, affordable and accessible internet is for job creation, education, health care, the enhancement of safe and connected communities, civic engagement, government transparency and responsiveness, and emergency preparedness in our communities. Of the three components of a robust internet, accessibility is greatly diminished if net neutrality is not protected, thereby negating many of the positive improvements in speed and affordability.

As the FCC now questions the importance of net neutrality in this proceeding- *In the Matter of Restoring Internet Freedom*, WC Docket No. 17-108, the MHCRC herein provides its input on

the value of net neutrality in our jurisdictions, and in the lives of our residents. The MHCRC agrees with and adopts the U.S. Conference of Mayors' statement on nondiscrimination principles for nationwide internet protections:

- Commitment to transparency;
- The free flow of information over the internet;
- No blocking of lawful websites;
- No unreasonable discrimination of lawful network traffic; and
- No paid prioritization.

Yesterday cable changed our world; today the internet is revolutionizing our world; tomorrow's connective technology is yet to be developed—but the adherence to and guidance from the above principles will enable their momentous social impact.

We urge you to ensure that the principles of **non-discriminatory, open access** remain the steadfast keystone of our modern communications in considering *In the Matter of Restoring Internet Freedom*.

Sincerely,

Leif Hansen, Chairman
Mt Hood Cable Regulatory Commission

- c. Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Suzanne Bonamici
Representative Kurt Schrader