RON WYDEN OREGON

RANKING MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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United States Senate

February 12, 2018

COMMITTEES:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Oregon State Legislature House Rules Committee 900 Court St. NE Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Williamson and Members of the House Rules Committee:

I write to express my support for Oregonians taking matters into their own hands on net neutrality. As many of you know, I have long supported strong, enforceable rules to create a level playing field for the internet, and I enthusiastically support changes to Oregon state law that achieve these goals.

I often describe net neutrality as the idea that after you pay for internet access, you get to go where you want, when you want, and at the speed you pay for. I wrote the first comprehensive net neutrality bill in the Senate back in 2006, and I am a strong supporter of the Obama-era rules recently gutted at the federal level by Donald Trump's Federal Communication Commission (FCC).

Ideally, the best option is for the federal government to create one set of ironclad rules that can stand up to the onslaught of Big Cable. I am cosponsoring legislation that will reverse the recent FCC decision and restore strong net neutrality protections. Because of grassroots support all over the country, we are one vote away from passage in the Senate — but we face a battle in the House, and the action would require Trump's signature.

And as you know, Congress right now is not exactly a well-oiled machine. Oregon should not wait for Congress to come back to its senses, and it certainly should not count on Trump. I encourage you to support strong, enforceable net neutrality protections at the state level, including legislative efforts.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

United States Senator