



TELECOMMUNICATIONS
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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May 13, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St., S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet: GN 14-28

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

It has been TIA's long-standing position that the Internet must continue to remain free and open, allowing for the connectivity of devices and access to information.¹ We continue to support these fundamental principles today, and we applaud the Commission for its efforts to shape rules that meet these important goals.

TIA has consistently advocated for a case-by-case analysis to determine whether a violation of these principles has occurred,² as overly-prescriptive rules with a one-size-fits-all approach would hinder innovation and impose time-to-market constraints on emerging products and services.

TIA also maintains its stance on technology neutrality. We strongly believe in the fundamental principle that markets alone should dictate the success of any given technology, product, or service. But any rules adopted should take into account the technological differences between platforms, while uniformly protecting consumers' interest in transparency.

Paid prioritization is an issue that we have also weighed in on and continue to support. When the Commission determined in 2010 that it would monitor activity in this space – business transactions with regard to specialized services – we were pleased to see openness to business models that allow for an alternative revenue stream, the content provider instead of the consumer. In an ecosystem where infrastructure investment relies on the return of investment, we are supportive of experimentation that assigns varying participants in that ecosystem with the responsibility of contributing to the investments made.

Lastly, we wholeheartedly believe that any reclassification of the Internet as a Title II telecommunications service is unwarranted and would undo decades of progress towards competition. We have provided abundant evidence of the negative impact that the onerous provisions of Title II have had on our membership, and we would be profoundly disappointed to revisit that economic downturn experienced by high tech manufacturers and suppliers of the network.

Thank you for continuing to work with TIA. Our members build the network of the future and it is squarely in our interest to continue to see it thrive in a competitive and capital intensive industry that supports research and development and millions of jobs in America. We look forward to working with the Commission on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Grant Seiffert
President

¹ See, High Tech Broadband Coalition Letter to Chairman Powell, September 25, 2003, CS Docket No. 02-52; GN Docket No. 00-185; CC Docket Nos. 02-33, 95-20 & 98-10

² See, FCC Internet Policy Statement, August 5, 2005