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Pennsylvania Democratic Party

Proposed Resolution Opposing FCC Actions to Abolish the Open Internet

WHEREAS the internet was created as a result of American taxpayer funding;

WHEREAS the airwaves are public property;

WHEREAS access for all to the internet is vital;

WHEREAS the new FCC chairman is an avowed foe of open access, and wishes to sell the right to govern & determine who may have what level of speed access to the internet by selling it to the highest bidder, rather than providing equal access in terms of message time;

WHEREAS those bidders' only interest is profit, and the FCC has proposed no regulations that would limit how the purchasers would govern their new internet kingdoms;

WHEREAS this will impede the speed at which libraries, small companies, individuals, universities and colleges, and other groups may access the internet;

WHEREAS this will put the "small players" at an even larger disadvantage;

WHEREAS an open internet with equal access is what has made the internet the creative and communicative force it has become, allowing startups and other small enterprises to realize the dream of commercial success and provide consumers with a true marketplace of goods, services, and ideas;

WHEREAS granting speedy access to the wealthy will only give the wealthy more power and stymie development and innovation, further limiting our speed of knowledge acquisition at a time that other countries seek to improve their science and technology sectors;

WHEREAS the likely purchasers are Verizon and Comcast, companies which have not received the highest ratings for customer care or satisfaction;

WHEREAS there is neither any need to limit internet access, nor any benefit, nor any hurry;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Pennsylvania Democratic Party is opposed to the pending regulations that seek to take away equal and open access to the internet which has existed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask all of our legislators to use their best efforts to halt the reckless sale of another public resource to the wealthiest corporations, and to preserve open and equal access to the internet, and to require that there be net neutrality for all.

Respectfully Submitted August 3, 2017 by
Peter Munsing
Co-sponsor: Cindy Purvis
Caucus: Progressive Caucus

Previously submitted:
Submitted, May 9, 2017, resubmitted May 29, 2017 by Peter Munsing on behalf of the Progressive Caucus

Background:

Nearly everyone who isn't a huge corporation supports the present open access to the internet. The Republicans want to block it. Open/equal access is not only a moral issue but an organizing tool, given the support it has from large groups of independents and republicans. It also goes to the core of Progressive values, that public property and public spaces should not be sold to the highest bidder.

The FCC will shortly close the books on public comment. Public comment is overwhelmingly against the FCC proposal, but the FCC chair is dead set on killing open internet. This means that we need to stand up for those who want to advocate it in the halls of congress, in the blogspots, comment areas and common sites on the internet.

ALEC supports the FCC position. Need we say more?

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2016/06/free-and-open-internet-under-assault-congress>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-03/is-there-life-after-net-neutrality-republicans-want-to-find-out>

<http://nymag.com/selectall/2017/05/forget-open-internet-your-cable-company-wants-to-screw-you.html>

The following (also via attached file) is a proposed resolution opposing GOP plans to kill the Open Internet which I am submitting, with co sponsor Cindy Purvis,

Thank you for your consideration and review of this submission.

Peter Munsing

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