



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: July 12, 2017

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
Press Secretary (315) 448-8044

**MAYOR MINER JOINS CITY LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE
COUNTRY CALLING FOR PROTECTIONS OF NET
NEUTRALITY**

*In Letter Signed by 50 Mayors, Local Leaders Urge FCC to Preserve Current Rules
to Protect an Open Internet for All Consumers*

*Miner: The Internet Must Be a Fair, Open Platform that Spurs Innovation and
Generates Economic Growth*

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner today signed onto a letter with 49 other local leaders from across the United States urging the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to preserve regulations protecting net neutrality. The letter is being issued on July 12, the Day of Action to Save Net Neutrality, where cities, websites, non-profits, and the private sector are working to raise awareness of the importance of an open internet.

“The internet must be a fair, open platform that spurs innovation and generates economic growth. This is why it is critically important the FCC preserve existing regulations protecting net neutrality,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “Mayors understand we need to have competition and fair access to the internet for a new generation of creative thinkers and entrepreneurs who are building urban economies across the country. It is essential we protect the rules safeguarding an open internet.”

The mayors letter, sent to FCC Chair Ajit Pai, emphasizes the principles of nondiscrimination, including a commitment to transparency; a guaranteed free-flow of information across the internet; no blocking of lawful websites; no unreasonable discrimination of lawful network traffic; and no paid prioritization. These principles were also outlined in a 2014 resolution from the US Conference of Mayors.

The mayors full letter to FCC Chair Pai appears below:

July 12, 2017

Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW

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Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

Our nation's residents benefit immensely from an open internet, which drives innovation and economic growth across every segment of American society. "Net neutrality" rules recognize the importance of maintaining a level playing field for all internet content – regardless of the creator or owner – to be enjoyed by all users, regardless of their internet provider. For this reason, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has consistently advocated for strong federal actions on this issue across two federal administrations.

This message has been consistent and simple. Be it through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or through legislative action, the U.S. Conference of Mayors first called in 2014 for nationwide internet protections that enforce the following nondiscrimination principles:

- 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.

In 2015, the FCC enshrined these same principles of free and open internet service into law, through the reclassification of internet service under Title II of the Communications Act.

On May 18th, the FCC voted to consider full repeal of Title II and net neutrality rules. The FCC's proposal poses a significant risk of stifling American innovation and harming local economies across the country.

Net neutrality is a pocket book issue for American households. Full repeal would have a particularly negative impact on middle and working class families, while simultaneously restricting access to certain types of online content and services to those who cannot afford to pay more. When internet providers restrict access to certain types of content and services and charge residents for the luxury of accessing information and services online, we are all less free to participate in the modern economy. For these and many other reasons, repealing these crucial protections will prove disruptive for our residents, our families, our small businesses, and countless others including nonprofits, schools, and libraries.

Additionally, technology startups depend on net neutrality to gain fair and competitive access to customers. A repeal of net neutrality rules could see innovative solutions from these startups relegated to the background as

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entrenched internet providers steer consumers to established solutions that can afford to pay for privileged status. Our cities depend on a thriving startup community to drive innovation and our continued economic growth.

The FCC must maintain and enforce the 2015 Open Internet Order, to ensure the principles of openness, freedom, and innovation continue to drive the American economy into the twenty-first century.

Sincerely,

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor, City and County of San Francisco

Mary Casillas Salas, Mayor, City of Chula Vista, California

Bill de Blasio, Mayor, City of New York, New York

Kim McMillan, Mayor, City of Clarksville, Tennessee

Martin J. Walsh, Mayor, City of Boston, Massachusetts

John Woods, Mayor, Town of Davidson, North Carolina

Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia

Lucy Vinis, Mayor, City of Eugene, Oregon

Ed Murray, Mayor, City of Seattle, Washington

Lionel Jordan, Mayor, City of Fayetteville, Arkansas

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor, City of Chicago, Illinois

William McLeod, Mayor, Village of Hoffman Estates, Illinois

Allison Silberberg, Mayor, City of Alexandria, Virginia

Archibald L. Gillies, Chairman, Islesboro Board of Selectmen, Town of Islesboro, Maine

Dana Kirkham, Mayor, City of Ammon, Idaho

Peter D'Errico, Chair of Select Board, Town of Leverett, Massachusetts

Ben Kessler, Mayor, City of Bexley, Ohio

Chris Beutler, Mayor, City of Lincoln, Nebraska

Melvin Kleckner, Town Administrator, Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

Edward J. Kennedy, City of Lowell, Massachusetts

Deborah Frank Feinen, Mayor, City of Champaign, Illinois

Paul Soglin, Mayor, City of Madison, Wisconsin

Andy Berke, Mayor, City of Chattanooga, Tennessee

Alex Morcos, Mayor, City of Medina, Washington

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*Betsy Hodges, Mayor, City of Minneapolis,
Minnesota*

*Ted Winterer, Mayor, City of Santa Monica,
California*

*Hans Riemer, Council Vice President, Montgomery
County, Maryland*

*Joanne Dittes Yepsen, Mayor, City of Saratoga
Springs, New York*

*Jennifer Gregerson, Mayor, City of Mukilteo,
Washington*

*Gary R. McCarthy, Mayor, City of Schenectady,
New York*

*Megan Barry, Mayor, Metropolitan Nashville &
Davidson County, Tennessee*

*Patricia Smith, Mayor, City of South Portland,
Maine*

*Jon Mitchell, Mayor, City of New Bedford,
Massachusetts*

*Christine Lundberg, Mayor, City of Springfield,
Oregon*

*David J. Narkewicz, Mayor, City of Northampton,
Massachusetts*

***Stephanie Miner, Mayor, City of Syracuse, New
York***

Libby Schaaf, Mayor, City of Oakland, California

*Marilyn Strickland, Mayor, City of Tacoma,
Washington*

Greg Stanton, Mayor, City of Phoenix, Arizona

Ted Wheeler, Mayor, City of Portland, Oregon

*Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor, City of Urbana,
Illinois*

Tom Butt, Mayor, City of Richmond, California

*William D. Sessoms, Mayor, City of Virginia Beach,
Virginia*

Ron Nirenberg, Mayor, City of San Antonio, Texas

*Sam Liccardo, Mayor, City of San Jose, California
and Member, Federal Communications Commission
Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee*

*John Heilman, Mayor, City of West Hollywood,
California*

*Pauline Russo Cutter, Mayor, City of San Leandro,
California*

*Joe Dominick, Mayor, City of Westminster,
Maryland*

*Zach Friend, Vice Chair, Santa Cruz County Board
of Supervisors, Santa Cruz County, California*

*Gary Resnick, Mayor, City of Wilton Manors,
Florida*

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