

THE 30TH ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



February 20, 2018

Governor Bill Walker
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

There has been a lot of concern about how Alaska should respond to the decision by the Federal Communications Commission to repeal net neutrality rules. We believe that as the Governor, you have the authority under Article III, Sections 1 and 24 of the Alaska Constitution to prohibit through an executive order all state agencies from entering into internet service contracts with providers that violate the principles of net neutrality with respect to any consumer in the state.

The State of Alaska has wide latitude to set conditions to any contracts within the government. State agencies spend over \$4.4 million a year for broadband services and are among the heaviest consumers of internet services in our state. As a consumer, Alaska's choice needs to be clear: we demand net neutrality. Governors in New York and Montana have issued executive orders that would also prohibit their state agencies from entering into contracts with providers that do not abide by the principles of net neutrality.

This executive order should state that to receive a state contract an internet service provider shall not with respect to any consumer in the state:

- Block internet content,
- Throttle or degrade internet traffic on the basis of internet content,
- Engage in paid prioritization, or
- Interfere with or disadvantage a user's ability to access and use broadband internet service.

The internet plays a vital role in the daily lives of Alaskans. Alaska's educational institutions rely on a free and open internet to provide our communities with educational opportunities. Alaska's emerging telemedicine industry relies on the internet to provide rural Alaskan communities better access to healthcare professionals and reduces the need for non-emergency travel in rural communities. Alaskan businesses rely on a free and open internet to advertise, compete, and grow. It is for these reasons we implore you to stand up for Alaskans and ensure that the internet remains open and accessible.

Thank you for your consideration,



Senator Bill Wielechowski



Senator Tom Begich



Senator Berta Gardner



Senator Gary Stevens



Representative Harriet Drummond



Representative Les Gara



Representative Andy Josephson



Representative Sam Kito



Representative Gabrielle LeDoux



Senator Dennis Egan



Senator Donny Olson



Representative Matt Claman



Speaker of the House Bryce Edgmon



Representative David Guttenberg



Representative Scott Kawasaki



Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins



Representative John Lincoln



Representative Dan Ortiz



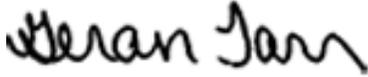
Representative Justin Parish



Representative Paul Seaton



Representative Ivy Spohnholz



Representative Geran Tarr



Representative Chris Tuck



Representative Adam Wool