

Dear Commissioners:

We, the undersigned organizations representing millions of Americans, write to express our support for Title II reclassification and Net Neutrality because of our shared interest in equity and support for the American people. High-speed internet enables people across society to access education, employment, healthcare, entertainment, banking, and commerce, and to participate fully in civic and cultural life. Access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet is critical for modern digital life and participating in the global economy.

President Biden and Congress recently made historic commitments to expanding high-speed internet access, including a \$65 billion investment to expand internet infrastructure and affordability across the country. The Affordable Connectivity Program, a key piece of this investment, has already helped more than 22 million households connect to the internet. These investments can help secure American competitiveness and innovation for the next generation — supporting a wave of new entrepreneurs and small businesses.

We must restore the expert agency's oversight of these monumental public investments in this essential communications service. Consumers require safeguards to ensure their broadband usage grants them access to the services they need. They need guarantees for the quality they expect in times of emergency and pandemic, and in everyday usage too. And they need the FCC to maintain regulatory oversight of internet service providers (ISPs). In the absence of any such authority, disparities in internet quality, access and affordability offered by ISPs are well-documented. In fact, an [investigative study](#) and [interactive tool](#) from nonprofit newsroom, The Markup, provides clear data that demonstrates just how pervasive this problem is.

With this historic investment in reliable high-speed internet already under way, restoring Title II reclassification is paramount. Properly classifying ISPs as common carriers would allow the FCC to protect consumers by enforcing rules of the road and ensuring people can get and stay connected. It would increase transparency about what it costs to connect, and also help to make internet access even more affordable by spurring greater competition in the space. And it would restore statutory protections for consumers' personal, private data collected and often misused by broadband providers.

In addition to equity and consumer protection in all aspects of broadband service, Net Neutrality protections ensure that we, not the companies we pay so we can get online, get to choose what we do online without interference. That means we get to choose what apps, websites, and devices we use without ISPs interfering or tilting the internet in their favor. With those Net Neutrality protections, consumers and online speakers are treated equally; independent, local and non-commercial media have a chance to reach the public without paying fees to giant telecoms and related companies; small businesses and startups can compete on a level playing field; and consumers can count on their streaming and other paid content reaching them without delay or additional fees. The FCC must restore Net Neutrality to ensure that the internet benefits people over telecom conglomerates.

We strongly urge the FCC to reinstate all the critical protections from the 2015 *Open Internet Order*, as well as adopt protections that take into account new technology and what we've learned since 2015.

By reasserting its authority over how we get online and adopting strong net neutrality protections, the FCC will have the tools to ensure that a free and open internet is available to everyone, no matter the color of their skin or the size of their bank account.