

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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**Statement of Rep. Bobby L. Rush**  
**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**Hearing on “Protecting the Internet and Consumers Through Congressional Action”**  
**January 21, 2015**

For two decades now, the Beltway battle over how to best ensure a free and open Internet has been fought and persisted, without a clear victor or a clear verdict.

All of this uncertainty harms America’s broadband consumers; chronically and disproportionately disconnected segments of our society; and our local, state and federal governments and even our nation’s economy. Certainly, it also affects broadband network and “edge” providers as well, but, make no mistake about it, it is the consumers who stand to be the biggest losers of all.

Many consumers weighed in with Congress for the strongest, pro-consumer rules possible.

These broadband consumers and users have said that they love and depend greatly on their broadband services; and that they want for their services to be provided on a competitive level with rates and competitive terms. But they are also saying to us here in Washington, with passion and fervor, that they do **NOT TRUST** that their broadband providers will honor those terms due to selfish and anticompetitive motives.

This, Mr. Chairman, should serve as a powerful reminder to us that the issues arising out of this controversy are propelled by bipartisan concerns and are amenable to bipartisan resolution and compromise. These issues greatly concern all broadband consumers and citizens in our society regardless of political affiliation or leaning.

We have all seen and heard, however, that this matter is too important for this Committee and for Congress to stand-by or for it to consider and markup only a majority Republican draft. Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, it is my intention to introduce Open Internet legislation in the not too distant future.

I would hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle with the aspiration that whatever legislation is hammered out will be clearly bipartisan.

Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Pallone, I yield back my time.