

GREG WALDEN, OREGON
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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July 25, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Chairman Blackburn:

We appreciate your announcement earlier today that you plan to hold a full Committee hearing in September to better understand the impact of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) net neutrality proposal, but we are concerned that you have ignored some of the most important people affected by the FCC's actions.

In your announcement of the hearing, you said the Chief Executive Officers from eight of the largest corporations in the world with a combined market capitalization of nearly \$2.5 trillion had been invited to testify. Although you stated the hearing was an inquiry into the "internet ecosystem," you once again failed to recognize how important the internet is for consumers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, political organizers, public interest groups, and people looking for work. While these people may not have as much influence in Washington as the CEOs you invited to testify, they are the real people who collectively have filed millions of comments at the FCC to express their strong support for the existing net neutrality rules.

Net neutrality is critical for protecting free speech, empowering small businesses, and creating jobs. We do not believe that this committee can have a serious discussion of this important issue without including the real people affected by the FCC's proposals. We therefore ask that you make sure that any hearing has sufficient witnesses to represent the diversity of real people who will be affected by the FCC's efforts to roll back net neutrality.

The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
July 25, 2017
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." in a cursive style.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Doyle" in a cursive style.

Mike Doyle
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology