

**Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo
(as prepared)
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
FCC Reauthorization: Oversight of the Commission
2123 Rayburn House Office Building
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On February 26th, the American people finally won one, and it was big. The regular gals and guys of the beleaguered middle class were heard. It was a historic day when the FCC voted for bright-line open Internet rules to protect the ability of consumers, students and entrepreneurs to learn and explore, create and market all on equal footing. The FCC decision ensures that the Internet remains open and accessible to everyone, a source of intellectual enrichment and an engine for economic growth and prosperity. The Internet is the public library of our time, a laboratory, and the most robust marketplace imaginable, and the FCC declared it open *to all and for all*.

It was a day when the average person witnessed something rare: the bigshots in Washington, D.C. sided with *them*. Decision-makers actually took in and considered the advice of over 4 million Americans. Such public engagement with our government should be celebrated, not rolled over.

Today, the Majority has offered a legislative discussion draft intended to reauthorize the FCC. I've reviewed the draft legislation and concluded that its effect is to squeeze an agency that is already operating at the lowest number of full-time staff in 30 years. The FCC must have the means to fulfill its mission to protect consumers, promote competition, and advance innovation. This includes huge issues like freeing up additional spectrum, promoting municipal broadband deployment, and enhancing 9-1-1 services. Any attempt to overhaul the FCC's funding structure should be fully analyzed and the implications of these changes should be fully understood. A 48-hour review is simply insufficient.

So I find myself wondering exactly why we're having this hearing today. I hope it isn't a fishing expedition. By compelling the FCC Chairman to testify five times over the course of

eight days, the Majority seems to have chosen to ignore a glaring fact: 4 million Americans did something. They and countless more contacted their Member of Congress to say, we don't want to pay more for less; we don't think any kind of discrimination, blocking or throttling is good or fair; we're tired of poor service from providers, confusing bills, and having to wait a half hour or more to talk to a human being.

Welcome, Chairman Wheeler and fellow Commissioners. I look forward to your testimony and our exchanges.