

**Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo**  
**Subcommittee on Communications and Technology**  
**House Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**The Uncertain Future of the Internet**  
**2322 Rayburn House Office Building**  
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“Five stars” – that’s Yelp’s take on the need for robust, enforceable net neutrality rules, and they’re not alone. A majority of those surveyed last month in a nationwide poll by the Republican-affiliated Vox Populi Polling agree that the FCC should adopt bright-line rules that prevent online gatekeepers like Comcast and AT&T from picking winners and losers on the Internet. Yet the title of today’s hearing appears tone deaf to these pleas.

What are we really here to discuss? Ensuring effective, enforceable net neutrality protections for millions of American consumers and entrepreneurs, or preserving the stranglehold telecom giants have on the broadband marketplace? If the Majority were transparent about its own intentions, it would put forth a legislative proposal to effectively prevent broadband providers from blocking legal content, engaging in paid prioritization and throttling legal content. If the Majority were serious about net neutrality, they’d allow the FCC to vigorously enforce these provisions, enhance consumer transparency, and ensure that the agency can respond as technology changes. What’s clear is the Majority doesn’t want *any* regulation, even when doing so would protect the constituents they represent.

So where does this leave us? Tomorrow, the FCC will vote on rules that provide certainty, not just for Silicon Valley startups, but for realtors, writers, venture capitalists and countless others who depend on the Internet to conduct commerce, communicate and learn. These FCC rules will prevent blocking, throttling and paid prioritization and ensure consumers and businesses are protected whether they access the Internet from home or through a mobile device like a smartphone or tablet. And they will do so without harming investment and deployment of broadband, a point reiterated by one of the nation’s largest wireless providers and substantiated by the fact that a record \$45 billion was invested by telecom giants in the AWS-3 spectrum auction.

Chairman Wheeler has his mandate, and no, it’s not from the President. The mandate comes from more than 4 million Americans who called and wrote the FCC, more than any other proceeding in the agency’s history. It’s time to drop the rhetoric and give the FCC the support it needs to enact real net neutrality.

I thank our witnesses for being here today, and I look forward to your testimony.

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