



The Honorable Mike Doyle
306 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3818

Dear Representative Doyle:

On behalf of the National Small Business Association (NSBA), the nation's first small-business advocacy organization, with more than 65,000 small-business members representing every state and every industry across the country, thank you for your leadership in championing the Save the Internet Act of 2019 (H.R. 1644). NSBA is pleased to support your legislation that restores the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules about net neutrality that were enacted during Obama administration.

In the last decade-plus, there has been a growing push by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to break free from rules that govern terms of Internet access. Specifically, net neutrality rules, to a degree, have prohibited pay-to-play fee assessments for better and faster transmissions of data—and prevented a telecom company from favoring the transmission of their own or affiliated content and/or services. This change allows internet companies to charge a fee for bandwidth use, stymieing access to information and content to those with fewer resources. Furthermore, this change makes breaking out with a new technology, or product, or company all the more difficult, especially for smaller companies and start-ups.

NSBA members believe the existing order issued by FCC chief Ajit Pai back in December 2017, which effectively killed net neutrality, severely hurts smaller businesses by slowing down their sites to promote larger companies that do the same work as them. A free and open Internet helps prevent unfair pricing practices by ISPs. It promotes innovation, the spread of ideas across platforms, and drives entrepreneurship. Further, it allows companies to compete on a level playing field when customers want to visit their websites.

NSBA supports innovation and giving all businesses the opportunity to compete equally for consumers. With strong net neutrality protections, the Internet is an open marketplace where any business can compete, allowing individuals to start companies easily, market their products across the country, and connect with customers anywhere worldwide. Thus, NSBA supports passage of H.R. 1644 and commends you for taking decisive action to restore strong net neutrality protections for all consumers.

NSBA is pleased H.R. 1644 has been approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and we look forward to working with you to bring this legislation to the House floor for consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd McCracken
President & CEO