

July 14, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U. S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington , DC20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U. S. Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U. S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U. S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned groups represent Main Street and small businesses in the real estate and supporting industries. We share a common understanding that increasingly, our businesses are conducted on the Internet. Streaming video, Voice over Internet Protocol, and mobile applications are commonly used technologies in our businesses today. In the future, new technologies, like virtual reality and telepresence among others, will be available that will no doubt require open internet access unencumbered by technical or financial discrimination.

The Internet has been a driving force for innovation for decades and real estate professionals, their customers, and local communities are benefiting from this innovation every day. The economic growth and job creation fueled by the open Internet is unprecedented in American economic history. This growth has been fostered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), under both Republican and Democrat administrations, for over a decade.

The FCC has recently proposed and is seeking comment on new Open Internet rules that would permit Internet service providers to discriminate technically against and impose new tolls on American businesses that operate on the Internet. Permitting these actions would be disruptive to realty and other businesses that have come to rely on an open Internet. Moreover, these actions would be especially harmful for small businesses and start-ups competing against larger companies that can afford such tolls. In order to continue the economic boom enabled by Internet innovation, we support and will urge the FCC instead to adopt open Internet rules that will protect against blocking, discrimination, access charges, and paid prioritization.

The benefits of broadband Internet for innovation and economic development are unparalleled. But we'll lose those tremendous benefits if the Internet does not remain an open platform, where Americans can innovate without permission and with low barriers to launching small businesses and creating jobs. We ask that you stand with Main Street businesses across this nation and join us in calling for the preservation of a free and open internet that allows innovation to continue unencumbered.

Associations

American Escrow Association
Asian Real Estate Association of America (AREAA)
CCIM Institute
Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM)
National Association of REALTORS®
REALTORS® Land Institute
The Realty Alliance

Multiple Listing Services (MLS)

Austin Board of REALTORS® MLS
Arizona Regional MLS
California Regional MLSHeartland MLS
Metrolist
Metro MLS
Metropolitan Indiana Board of REALTORS® and its Broker Listing Cooperative
Metropolitan Regional Information Systems (MRIS)
MLSListings
MLS PIN
Midwest Real Estate Data
My Florida Regional MLS
RealTracs Solutions
Regional MLS
TREND MLS

Real Estate Firms

Alain Pinel REALTORS®
Allen Tate Company
Baird & Warner
Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene
Coldwell Banker Bain
Coldwell Banker Howard Perry and Walston
Crye-Leike
Cutler Real Estate
Douglas Elliman Real Estate
First Weber Group
First Team Real Estate
J. Rockcliff REALTORS®
John L. Scott Real Estate
Long & Foster
Lyon Real Estate
Mason-McDuffie Real Estate, Inc.
NP Dodge Company
Prominent Properties Sotheby's International Realty
Real Living Lifestyles
Realogy
Realty Executives International
RealtyUSA

Real Estate One
RE/MAX LLC
RE/MAX Allegiance
RE/MAX Equity Group
Shorewest REALTORS®
Sibcy Cline REALTORS®
The Keyes Company
Tenura Holdings
Urban Nest Realty
Weichert REALTORS®
West USA Realty, Inc

Venture Funds

Second Century Ventures

Second Century Ventures Portfolio Companies

Back At You Media
BombBomb
Deductr
Desktime – Burbank, CA
Goby, LLC
Planwise
SendHub – Menlo Park, CA
SmartZip
Workface, Inc.

cc: U. S. Senate Committee on Commerce
U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy & Commerce
U. S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary