



INTERNET FREEDOM
BUSINESS ALLIANCE

IFBA Members Welcome FCC's Open Internet Vote

FCC takes a strong step toward ensuring the Internet remains a free market

Washington, D.C. - The Internet Freedom Business Alliance (IFBA) and its members today welcomed the FCC's vote to approve open Internet rules. Phillip Berenbroick, Policy Director of IFBA, released the following statement following the vote:

"The Internet Freedom Business Alliance applauds the FCC's vote to approve sensible, legally sustainable open Internet rules. By adopting rules to preserve the open Internet, the Commission has taken a strong step toward ensuring that the Internet remains a free market without taxes, tolls, and discrimination and continues to be an unprecedented platform for innovation and economic growth. We look forward to reviewing the details of the Commission's rules and continuing to work with policymakers and other stakeholders to promote policies that encourage investment, job creation, and business formation."

IFBA member companies and board members released the following statements:

CCIA: "These long awaited Open Internet protections are cause for celebration for all Internet users from students to businesses. When so much depends on nondiscriminatory access to the Internet, the FCC is right to impose narrow rules using strong legal grounds like it did today. The Internet's tradition of open access has been the foundation of small start ups that today are household names. The action the FCC has taken will be remembered for decades to come as the action that ensured the next generation of innovators will have that same access to customers and the Internet so that they too can succeed and grow our economy. Internet users have assurances they will continue to have access to all existing apps, websites and services as well as ones that are still being developed developed in someone's basement or dorm room."

COMPTEL: "The Commission's historic decision today to promote and protect an open Internet is vital to consumers and companies of all sizes – particularly small businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs – that depend on the Internet to communicate, conduct business and serve their customers. Today's action is a defeat for those companies that want to exert gatekeeper control over the Internet and a clear victory for individual choice, free expression, competition and the Internet-driven free market economy."

Dwolla: "This is great news for the economy, not just FinTech startups, like Dwolla. By reclassifying the Internet under Title II, Chairman Wheeler offers the strongest possible protections to the fair and open Internet we know today. There's still work to be done with the details of the proposal, but we—like the millions of other supporters—are excited to get to work, collaborate with those on the other side of the issue, and draft regulation that will ensure the same access, certainty, and level-playing field Dwolla had when we first started."

Distinc.tt: "Today, the FCC's vote to save net neutrality made a very real impact on the lives of all Americans. An open and free internet is vital to all Americans, but it is especially important to the LGBT community as it provides a means for them to connect with others like them. At Distinc.tt, we create technology that strengthens the lives of hundreds of thousands of LGBT individuals. . . . Our business would not have been possible had net neutrality not existed when Distinc.tt was started. Had paid-prioritization been legal when we started Distinc.tt, requiring us to negotiate costly contracts with ISPs for access to the market, we likely would not exist today. We wouldn't have had the funds to pay ISPs, which would have resulted in us being in a slow lane. This in turn would have hurt our user growth and engagement and made it more difficult to raise capital and build our startup. With the FCC's vote to reclassify ISPs as common carriers under Title II, both American consumers and tech startups can operate in a market that is transparent and free of discrimination, as has been the case for decades."

Engine: "Today the FCC took a momentous step to secure the future of an open Internet. With today's vote the FCC has stated loud and clear that the Internet must remain a level playing field. This decision will not only allow today's startups to compete and grow and create new jobs, but it will also allow future generations of innovators to develop world-changing technologies that we can't yet even imagine. And while these rules may not prevent all future exploitation by Internet Service Providers, they are a tremendous victory for the Internet community in its efforts to fight discrimination. . . . In the months and years ahead we'll continue to harness the incredible energy of our startup community to combat future threats to an open Internet, and to ensure all startups can access the tools they need to thrive."

General Assembly: "General Assembly applauds the FCC on today's important vote to preserve net neutrality. General Assembly was founded with the belief in open access to the technology and tools for full participation in 21st century society. Chairman Wheeler and his colleagues have taken a bold and critical step in ensuring fair and equal access to technology and communications -- safeguarding the future of innovation for industry and the individual. We look forward reviewing the final rules after all FCC commissioners have had their final input to help strengthen and expand protections for the open Internet. We encourage all sides to recognize that the FCC's actions represent true progress and protection for the rights and liberties of all Americans."

Kickstarter: "A free internet with equal access for all is vital to a diverse and vibrant culture of open exchange," said Kickstarter CEO Yancey Strickler. "We're grateful that the FCC has heard the millions of voices who believe in a free and open internet. Today's step is a huge victory, however, we must remain diligent in protecting everyone's rights as citizens of the web."

National Association of Realtors: "Realtors® welcome the passage of the FCC's new rules to protect true net neutrality, which are essential to the modern business of real estate that is increasingly conducted online. Today's vote ensures that consumers will have equal, unencumbered access to the Internet and all legal content and applications, that cannot be blocked or throttled by Internet Service Providers."

Union Square Ventures: "We applaud the FCC's decision to define access to the Internet as an essential service, and to preserve the openness that has made the Internet such a tremendous engine for innovation and opportunity."

The [Internet Freedom Business Alliance](#) is a diverse coalition of startups, small businesses, and venture investors advocating for strong, enforceable rules to protect the open Internet.

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