

A Broadband for America study found that 98.5% of the original comments submitted favor the continuation of net neutrality. The FCC chairman said the number of comments is not important. We disagree. The government works for the people, not the other way around. Ajit Pai is in town today to talk about increasing access to the Internet. What he isn't talking about is the kind of Internet we will have.

So whether or not Chairman Pai wants to talk about net neutrality, we must bring the conversation to him. When late night talk show host John Oliver discussed net neutrality and encouraged people to comment via the site he set up at www.gofccyourself.com, he commented on Chairman Pai's media appearances holding an oversized brand mug for Reese's peanut butter cups. We've replicated that mug here as the container for the comments we will be delivering.

If you'd like to put a comment in the cup today, you can do that!



As the organizations co-hosting this event: 18 Million Rising, ACLU of Northern California, Center for Media Justice, Color of Change, Courage Campaign, CREDO, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Free Press Action Fund, Greenlining Institute, Media Alliance, Tech Workers Coalition and The Utility Reform Network, we want to be crystal clear that we support, ardently, increasing Internet access and closing the digital divide. However, we're not protesting the panel discussion. We can't bridge the divide with a closed industry-controlled Internet. We're protesting the FCC's actions to dismantle open Internet protections, and put corporations in charge of the Internet rules of the road.



Here's how you can help:

- Stick around, listen to the speakers, raise your voice and put a comment in the cup.
- Contact your Congresspeople and tell them an open Internet is important to you. You can get lots more information on how to do that at www.battleforthenet.com
- Get on the mailing lists of the great organizations supporting this action today so we can keep you informed on the struggle to save the open Internet.

The Utility Reform Network (statewide) www.turn.org @utilityreform Tech Workers Coalition (regional) techworkerscoalition.org @techworkersco Media Alliance (regional) www.media-alliance.org @twrling Greenlining Institute (regional) www.greenlining.org @greenlining Free Press Action Fund (national) www.freepress.net @freepressaction Electronic Frontier Foundation (national) www.eff.org @eff CREDO Action (national) credoaction.com @CredoMobile Courage Campaign (statewide) www.couragecampaign.org @CourageCampaign Color of Change (national) www.colorofchange.org @ColorOfChange Center for Media Justice (national) www.centerformediajustice.org @mediajustice ACLU of Northern CA (regional) www.aclunc.org @ACLU_Norcal 18 Million Rising (national) 18millionrising.org @18millionrising



Why We Demand An Open Internet

Dependence on the Internet has become how most of us live. We connect with friends, families, and communities of support. We promote our businesses, our art and music and our creative enterprises. We read the news. And we organize politically to support things we believe in and oppose things we don't want. Like electricity and running water, the Internet is a utility that we rely on to go about our daily lives.

The Internet saves lives. Marginalized communities including black people, queer and trans populations, immigrants, youth, seniors, medical patients and many others have all used the web to create communities of support to share information critical to survival. The Bay Area is known for our rich history of organizing. Free speech and democratic participation rely on an even playing field online. We don't want the less powerful and less wealthy consigned to an Internet slow lane. The Bay Area's startup economy also depends on a marketplace that rewards innovation and doesn't stifle it in favor of incumbent legacy companies by giving

All this is only possible because the Internet is free of blocking, throttling and prioritization of content based on the ability to pay. Classification of broadband Internet as a Title public utility allows the enforcement of the principles of an open Internet.

Title II is the legal basis that allows the FCC to ensure universal service – the principle that vital communications networks should be available everywhere and at an affordable cost. Title II also allows the FCC to ensure access for customers with disabilities.

And Title II permits the FCC to require more transparency in customer billing and fees.

Yet Ajit Pai, the FCC chairman appointed by Donald Trump and a former Verizon lawyer, is trying to reverse the utility classification of broadband Internet and remove network neutrality regulations. By rolling back Title II net neutrality, the FCC would remove its own authority to help make the internet available and affordable for everyone. Pai's plan for net neutrality without proper legal backing won't work for anyone, especially those who need it most. The courts have made it clear – ironically in a lawsuit called Verizon vs. FCC that a free and open Internet without Title II protections doesn't follow the law and is unenforceable. Americans, of all political stripes, agree. Millions of comments have been submitted to the FCC in support of net neutrality.