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May 10, 2018

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), I write to express NAR's belief that open internet rules are necessary to support a wide range of common business practices that rely on the Internet and have improved the ability of real estate professionals to offer homebuyers and businesses the tools to efficiently make better informed decisions when looking for a new home or commercial site.

NAR supports network neutrality rules that protect American businesses and consumers by preventing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) not only from blocking, throttling, or discriminating against Internet traffic and prohibit paid prioritization arrangements, but also address interconnection issues and other anti-competitive practices covered by the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) general conduct rule.

NAR believes that the best resolution to this issue would be for Congress to reach a bipartisan consensus and enact legislation through regular order. Unfortunately, there is no current legislation in the Senate that, in NAR's opinion, reaches this result. For this reason, NAR supports S.J. Res. 52 (Net Neutrality CRA).

The Internet has been a driving force for innovation for decades, and our members, 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 FCC under both Republican and Democratic administrations for over a decade.

Streaming video, Voice over Internet Protocol, cloud storage and mobile applications are commonly used in our businesses today. Without protections from the Open Internet Order, consumers may experience slow or degraded delivery of home search videos creating barriers in the very first step in the home buying process. 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 benefits of broadband Internet for innovation and economic development are unparalleled. But the nation will 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. Given this reality, it is important that Congress work with the FCC to preserve open Internet policies that promote competition between Internet application and service providers. NAR remains ready to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth G. Mendenhall'.

Elizabeth Mendenhall

2018 President, National Association of REALTORS®



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