

PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE OPEN INTERNET WITHOUT DISCOURAGING DEPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the African Americans Mayors Association (AAMA) supports laws and policies that encourage speed, competition, and rapid deployment of advanced telecommunications services in all communities; and

WHEREAS, AAMA supports the principles set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2010 to protect an open Internet, which include:

- No blocking: Internet service providers (ISPs) cannot block consumers from accessing legal websites and services.
- No throttling: ISPs cannot intentionally slow down some content, or speed up other based on the type of services or ISP preference.
- Transparency: ISPs must fully disclose to consumers any network management actions.
- No paid prioritization: ISPs cannot require pay to-play for Internet companies or otherwise place some content in a slow lane.

WHEREAS, the exponential growth of the Internet has flourished as a result of the government's 'hands-off' approach, ever-increasing competition, and fast-growing consumer interest; and

WHEREAS, Internet users should be given a choice when it comes to selecting a broadband connection that will meet their current and future needs for speed, reliability, quality of service, and capabilities not yet envisioned; and

WHEREAS, broadband connections, services, and applications should continue to become more affordable and accessible to all consumers; and

WHEREAS, it is important that consumers have access to wired and mobile broadband options and incentives and regulation should be designed to support both sets of technologies; and

WHEREAS, joint ventures and partnerships with minority owned telecommunication companies must be incentivized; and

WHEREAS, consumers have benefited from ISPs' investment in broadband networks that have fueled innovations in education, health, civic engagement and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, consumers will continue to benefit from investment in broadband networks that are faster, less susceptible to hackers and spammers, and allow consumers more access and innovative services with security and privacy; and

WHEREAS, consumers should determine how content and services are delivered over the Internet; and

WHEREAS, as long as consumers are free to take or reject any option, Internet services providers should be free to offer new service and pricing options; and

WHEREAS, innovation to meet consumer demand should be encouraged so that consumers experience the best Internet possible; and

WHEREAS, companies that invest in broadband and broadband-related applications should be afforded the flexibility to explore fair and competitive business models and pricing plans for their products and services; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2015, the FCC adopted an Open Internet Order which classifies broadband Internet access service as a telecommunications service subject to regulation under Title II of the Communications Act; and

WHEREAS, a September 2014 report, “The State of Broadband 2014: Broadband for All”, by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, launched by the International Telecommunications Union, the U.S. ranked 24th in fixed broadband penetration and 10th in mobile broadband penetration and could decline further as the FCC’s proposed classification of broadband Internet access service under Title II places more of the cost burden onto the end user, exacerbating an already disturbing trend of a ‘digital divide’ within our country; and

WHEREAS, mandated public utility regulation of the Internet would impede future capital investments in the U.S.’ broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a December 2014 Policy Brief, “Outdated Regulations Will Make Consumers Pay More for Broadband”, by the Progressive Policy Institute estimated that applying outdated, 1934-era Title II regulations to the Internet will result in an \$11B increase per year in the costs that must be paid by consumers to access the Internet.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that AAMA calls upon the Congress of the United States of America to enact legislation that would protect consumers without undermining future growth, investment, and innovation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that AAMA believes that new federal legislation should give the FCC clear authority to regulate the Internet without reliance on Title II regulations, and provide a way to protect consumers, close the digital divide, and preserve an open Internet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this new legislation should provide the FCC with authority to oversee, , the broadband Internet marketplace by adopting principles that focus on assessing whether the market continues to ensure that consumers have high speed and reliable access to the Internet that can’t be blocked or slowed down; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that AAMA send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, members of Congress and the commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission.