

February 9, 2018

House Rules Committee
Chair, Representative Jennifer Williamson
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4155 (Williamson)—SUPPORT

Dear Representative Williamson,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to strongly support HB 4155. The amended bill will require ISPs conducting business in Oregon to adhere to net neutrality principles. Net neutrality is the basic principle that ISPs will treat all websites, apps, and other services on its networks equally. By establishing a net neutrality standard by which a state, a large consumer of telecommunication services, will award contracts to ISPs, consumers as a whole benefit from state and local governments stepping up to ensure an open internet. Consumers Union has long supported net neutrality rules that benefit consumers online, and opposed the Federal Communications Commission's recent repeal of its own net neutrality rules last December.ⁱ

Consumers depend on the internet for online banking, accessing employment and health information, social networking, driving directions, and myriad other tasks,ⁱⁱ and they the assurance of a neutral web. A majority of Americans support net neutrality rules to prevent ISPs from blocking or discriminating against lawful content on the internet: 57% of all Americans support the current net neutrality rules and 67% of all consumers disagree that providers should be able to choose which websites, apps, or streaming services customers can access.ⁱⁱⁱ

Oregon residents need the protections that HB 4155 would provide. This pro-consumer legislation would protect and support the internet as we know it, ensuring that consumers have access to an open marketplace where companies large and small compete on equal terms.

Sincerely,
ACLU
Center for Rural Strategies
Center for Digital Democracy
Center for Democracy & Technology
Consumer Action
Consumer Federation of America
Consumers Union
Consumer Watchdog
Engine
New America's Open Technology
Institute
OpenMedia
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse
Public Knowledge

World Privacy Forum

ⁱ *FCC Repeal of Net Neutrality Rules a “Big Loss for Consumers”*, CONSUMERS UNION (Dec. 14, 2017), <http://consumersunion.org/news/consumers-union-fcc-repeal-of-net-neutrality-rules-a-big-loss-for-consumers/>.

ⁱⁱ Andrew Perrin & Maeve Duggan, *Americans’ Internet Access: 2000-2015*, PEW RESEARCH CTR. (June 26, 2015), <http://consumersunion.org/news/consumers-union-fcc-repeal-of-net-neutrality-rules-a-big-loss-for-consumers/>.

ⁱⁱ Andrew Perrin & Maeve Duggan, *Americans’ Internet Access: 2000-2015*, PEW RESEARCH CTR. (June 26, 2015), <http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/06/26/americans-internet-access-2000-2015>.

ⁱⁱⁱ James K. Wilcox, *Survey: Consumers Favor Strong Net Neutrality Rules*, CONSUMER REPORTS (Sept. 27, 2017), <https://www.consumerreports.org/net-neutrality/most-consumers-still-want-strong-net-neutrality-rules/?loginMethod=auto>.