

**Opening Statement**  
Chairman Mike Doyle  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Markup - Save the Internet Act  
March 26, 2019  
Rayburn 2123 - 10:00 am

Welcome to the Subcommittee on Communication and Technology's first markup of this new Congress.

Today, we will be marking up the Save the Net Act, which I introduced earlier this month - and which has been cosponsored by 163 of our colleagues here in the House.

Over the course of this debate we have heard from consumer advocates, minority and underrepresented communities, rural broadband providers, small businesses, innovators, entrepreneurs, and millions of constituents – all calling for the restoration of these rules. Polls show that 83% Americans of all of stripes, whether they be Republicans, Independents, or Democrats strongly support Net Neutrality rules.

So many people care deeply about a free and open internet because it is critical for so many communities and sectors of our economy. Today, broadband connectivity touches almost every aspect of our economy, politics, and culture.

That is why I am happy that today we are marking up the Save the Internet Act.

First, this legislation would restore popular, bipartisan, common sense net neutrality protections, and put a cop back on the beat to protect consumers, small businesses, and competitors from unjust and unreasonable practices by Internet Service Providers.

Second, this bill gives the FCC the authority to protect consumers now and, in the future, through forward looking regulatory authority.

Third, the bill restores the Commission's legal authority to support broadband access and deployment programs through the Universal Service Fund. These programs pay for the deployment of broadband in rural communities through the Connect America Fund and support access to working families, seniors, and veterans through the Life Line program.

The Save the Internet Act would achieve these goals by codifying the FCC's 2015 Open Internet Order, as a new free-standing section of law that would ensure the Internet remains an open platform for innovation and competition, regardless of political changes at the FCC.

By codifying the order, this legislation also permanently prevents the FCC from applying 27 sections the Communications Act as well as over 700 regulations, the majority of Title 2. In doing so, the bill permanently prohibits the FCC from engaging in rate setting, requiring that broadband providers unbundle their network, or levying additional taxes or fees on broadband access.

The approach that we are discussing here today charts a new course for Net Neutrality and would put in place 21<sup>st</sup> Century rules for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Internet. This bill removes much of the regulatory overhang of Title 2 that Internet Service Providers and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have long complained about.

The bill retains the Commission's ability to police unjust and unreasonable practices by ISPs. Opponents of this legislation need to ask themselves, what are the unjust and unreasonable practices that they want ISPs to be engaged in, and why would we want to allow such practices.

I have encouraged my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to seriously consider this legislation, and I'm hopeful they will, this bill is a new approach, and an open invitation to our colleagues and ISPs alike to come together and support a new way forward.

This committee is known for its bipartisanship. At our recent hearing, I urged my colleagues to reach out to me if they were interested in working together. And I'm disheartened that neither I nor my staff have had any outreach from any of my colleagues on the other side asking to discuss this legislation, any potential amendments, or any other related legislation.

However, my door remains open if members wish to discuss changes to the bill between now and full committee markup.

Together we hope to advance this legislation through the Congress and restore these essential protections for all Americans.

It is my hope that we conduct this markup in a civil and efficient manner, as all of you know that I'm not a fan of needlessly wasting time.