

What the Hispanic Community is Saying

THE FCC'S INTERNET REGULATION RULES

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Bob Ontiveros, Chairman of the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: "A balance is needed, and the FCC already has found the appropriate light touch regulatory framework for the Internet over the past two decades and should stick with it going forward. An Open Internet offers opportunities for minority enterprises here in the Quad-Cities that were not available to the workforce of the last generation. The Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is working to promote our area's unique Hispanic cultural identity to generate new business, and an Open Internet needs to be part of that future." (Bob Ontiveros, "View from QCA: Keep the Internet open," *Dispatch Argus*, 8/24/14)

Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC): "Today's FCC decision to reclassify broadband as a public utility will not help low income, Latino and other minority communities in their quest to get online nor will it prevent ISPs from charging consumers for faster speeds." (League of United Latin American Citizens, "LULAC Response Regarding the Federal Communications Commission Vote on Net Neutrality," *Press Release*, 2/26/15)

Carlos Solórzano-Cuadra, CEO of the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce of San Francisco: "A major reason that broadband has thrived in this country is that the federal government has used a light touch when it comes to regulations on the Internet. Companies have been free to invest millions -- even billions -- of private dollars into the infrastructure. Entrepreneurs do what they do best: innovate. Market forces -- real customers -- reward providers that offer the best service." (Carlos Solórzano-Cuadra, "Heavy Internet regulation would hurt minority communities," *Contra Costa Times*, 8/23/14)

Hector Barreto, Chairman of The Latino Coalition: "The Latino Coalition strongly opposes the FCC decision to impose burdensome and outdated regulations on the Internet. With this vote, the FCC has successfully taken America backwards by ignoring 15 years of bipartisan policy on this issue. Not only will these regulations enormously set technology and innovation back, they will cause market uncertainty and will not support an open Internet that gives equal access to broadband and to all content and applications on the web. Congress needs to present statutory guidance on net neutrality and make known a regulatory framework that will foster creativity, investment, and drive American leadership on the global Internet economy." (The Latino Coalition, "The Latino Coalition Reacts to FCC Decision on Net Neutrality and the Effect on the Internet," *Press Release*, 2/27/15)

Hispanic Leadership Fund: "Anyone interested in protecting the internet and keeping it open to investment and growth, as well as seeing the many benefits that result from increased high-quality access to broadband, should be very concerned with the threat that the FCC would pose should it decide to apply early 20th-century telephone regulations to the Internet." (Hispanic Leadership Fund, "Why Apply Ancient Rules to the Internet?" *Hispanic Leadership Fund*, 9/25/14)

Jason Llorenz, Professor at Rutgers University School of Communication and Information: "These facts make it no surprise that Latino-serving organizations and national civil rights leaders, remain unsympathetic to an Internet policy agenda driven by silicon valley elites, that ignores the issues of inclusion and equity in advancement of a business-driven agenda to treat the Internet as a utility under a 1934 law. That agenda is good for some of Silicon Valley's most elite companies, but is bad for jobs, and could cost Internet consumers more money in taxes and fees on their Internet connections." (Jason Llorenz, "2014 Defined the Challenge for Latinos and The Digital Economy," *Medium*, 12/29/14)

Javier Palomarez, President & CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: "The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is disappointed in the FCC's approved plan to implement outdated, overbearing net neutrality rules. Title II regulations will lead to legal uncertainty and decrease the incentive for companies to invest in the broadband networks that are essential for members in our community to thrive in a 21st century world. Congress should forge a path forward with bipartisan legislation to enact less intrusive regulations that will uphold the open Internet principles we enjoy

today and ensure continued innovation and growth of the Internet. It is time for Congress to act." (U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, "USHCC Statement in Response to FCC Vote on Net Neutrality," *Press Release*, 2/26/15)

Justin Vélez-Hagan, Founder of the National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce: "If companies, large and small, are forced to comply with the FCC's proposal, increased business costs will mean that large companies may have to choose to relax investment, hire less, and raise consumer costs. Economists and financial analysts will argue that businesses rarely allow additional expenses to impact the bottom line; costs will be cut elsewhere to maintain income, or prices to customers will have to increase. If you owned one of the thousands of small ISPs around the country who stand to be impacted by these new FCC regulations, you would do the same. If you were a shareholder in one of the major corporations that will feel the financial squeeze of new regulations, you would demand it" (Justin Vélez-Hagan, Opinion, "Elected representatives, not the FCC, will protect our interests in Internet commerce," *Fox News Latino*, 2/4/15)

Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association (LISTA): "These antiquated and burdensome rules will discourage much needed investment in broadband and lead to years of legal battles and frozen investment in Internet networks. In order for the Hispanic community, especially Latino and Latina small businesses in the tech industry, as well as consumers everywhere to continue benefiting from all that today's Internet has to offer, we need light-touch regulations that will help spark innovation and expand high quality broadband services to every corner of the country." (Latinos in Information Sciences and Technology Association, "LISTA Statement on FCC Chair's Net Neutrality Proposal," *TechLatino*, 2/5/15)

Martin Chavez, Senior Advisor of the Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership: "For minorities and lower-income Americans in particular, including Florida's 4.4 million Hispanic residents, this new treatment of the Internet will also adversely impact Internet access and adoption. Forthcoming cost hikes will strike directly at the number one reason why lower-income Americans access the Internet at lower rates than others: affordability. Congress can still step in to add clarity and enact law that preserves an open but flexible Internet. Republicans must step back from their seeming intention to gut the regulatory authority of the FCC, and Democrats need to step back and take a clearer look at what has given us the marvel of the modern Internet." (Martin Chavez, "Internet regulations require legislative fix," *The Sun Sentinel*, 3/31/15)

Rosa Mendoza, Executive Director of the Hispanic Technology and Telecommunications Partnership: "The Internet is too important to the very fiber of our society. It is crucial to the future of healthcare, education and civic involvement. We urge Congress to join together and reach across the aisle, to take action now, both to protect the open Internet as well as to ensure that the right rules are in place to make certain that consumers will be able to access the advanced Internet-based networks we need to remain connected in a 21st century world. Our modern Internet is too vital to be tied down by burdensome federal regulatory policies and we hope Congress is spurred into action to bring us the best possible open Internet protections, based on legally sound rules that encourage investment and broadband network infrastructure build." (Rosa Mendoza, "National broadband plan and the uncertain future of the Internet," *The Hill*, 3/25/15)

U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce: "Extending these rules to mobile services is particularly dangerous and will disproportionately affect Hispanics, who lead all ethnicities in smartphone adoption and use of mobile devices to access the Internet. The USMCOC believes that right incentives, not regulations, will ensure investment and innovation are nurtured and preserved. USMCOC urges Congress to write net neutrality laws into place that would not be subjected to endless litigation. A lightly-regulated market has proven to strengthen broadband networks and services that enable entrepreneurs, especially Hispanics, to revolutionize the way our country does business. We must keep this vibrant market unnecessarily slowed down by regulation." (U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, "USMCOC Statement In Response To Title II Regulations From The FCC," *Press Release*, 2/26/15)