



Senator Scott Wiener, 11th Senate District
Senator Kevin de Leon, 24th Senate District
Assemblymember Miguel Santiago, 53rd District

Senate Bills 822 and 460 – Restoring Net Neutrality in California

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 460 and 822 establish strong Net Neutrality policy for the state of California by reinstating the major rules and significant protections put in place in 2015 by the Obama-era Federal Communications Commission (FCC). By banning practices by Internet Services Providers (ISPs) that block or slow access to websites or that discriminates among websites or applications, these two bills will ensure that Californians are protected from harmful, anti-competitive, and anti-consumer practices by some of the world's largest companies.

PROBLEM

On June 11th, the FCC abolished Net Neutrality protections and abdicated its responsibility to protect an open internet. As a result, ISPs are free to create barriers and increase fees and costs to participate in the free markets that depend on the internet and to interfere with consumer choice.

Under the FCC's new regime, ISPs can speed up or slow down services like online video or calling, or even block all online calling services, except for the one service that paid that ISP. Such practices would extinguish the vital startup economy made possible by an open internet and hurt small businesses in California.

In an era of considerable media and communication consolidation, an absence of net neutrality protections will result in ISPs limiting choice, increasing prices, and disproportionately harming low-income Californians who cannot afford more expensive Internet service.

THE LEGISLATION

The net neutrality proposal put forward in SB 822 and SB 460 stands for the basic proposition that the role of internet service providers (ISPs) is to provide neutral access to the internet, not to pick winners and losers by deciding (based on financial payments or otherwise) which websites or applications will be easy or hard to access, which will have fast or slow access, and which will be blocked entirely.

Under this agreement, SB 822 will contain strong net neutrality protections and prohibit blocking websites, speeding up or slowing down websites or whole classes of applications such as video, and charging websites for access to an ISP's subscribers or for fast lanes to those subscribers. ISPs will also be prohibited from circumventing these protections at the point where data enters their networks and from charging access fees to reach ISP customers. SB 822 will also ban ISPs from violating net neutrality by not counting the content and websites they own against subscribers' data caps. This kind of abusive and anti-competitive "zero rating", which leads to lower data caps for everyone, would be prohibited, while "zero-rating" plans that don't harm consumers are not banned.

SB 460 will be amended to focus on requiring ISPs that enter into state contracts adhere to net neutrality principles. This provision ensures that public entities only expend taxpayer funds on contracts with ISPs that comply with California's comprehensive net neutrality protections.

All these steps in tandem will give California the ability to keep ISPs from engaging in practices that threaten Net Neutrality, and maintain the free flow of online information and discourse that is vital to a robust democracy. Upholding Net Neutrality is essential to our ability to petition the government for change, to engage with our fellow citizens, and even to learn new information and to create social change. These bills will preserve the open Internet that we have always known thanks to longstanding Net Neutrality protections which have become so vital to our country and state's economy and communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SUPPORT

Attorney General Xavier Becerra

Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones

Former FCC Commissioners:

- Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the FCC under President Obama
- Gloria Tristani, FCC Commissioner
- Michael Copps, FCC Commissioner

Mayor and Local Governments:

- Mayor Eric Garcetti - Los Angeles
- Mayor Darrell Steinberg - Sacramento
- Mayor Mark Farrell - San Francisco
- Mayor Libby Schaff - Oakland
- Mayor Sam Liccardo - San Jose
- Mayor Robert Garcia - Long Beach

- Mayor John Bauters - Emeryville
- Mayor Gabriel Quinto - El Cerrito
- Santa Clara County
- San Mateo County

Major Public Interest and Labor Groups:

- ACLU
- California Association of Realtors
- California Clean Money Campaign
- California Common Cause
- California Low Income Consumers Coalition
- CALPIRG
- California Nonprofits Association
- CHIRLA
- Color Of Change
- Consumer Attorneys of California
- Consumer Federation
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- Los Angeles County Democratic Party
- NARAL Pro-Choice California
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- NextGen California
- PolicyLink
- Public Knowledge
- The Greenlining Institute
- TURN - The Utility Reform Network
- Voices for Progress, California
- Western Center on Law and Poverty

Prominent Labor Groups:

- California Faculty Association
- California Labor Federation
- California Teamsters Public Affairs Council
- Engineers and Scientists of California, LOCAL 20
- Internet Creators Guild
- Jockeys' Guild
- SEIU California
- Professional and Technical Engineers, Local 21
- Unite Here International Union
- United Auto Workers Local 5810
- United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW)
- Utility Workers Union of America, Local 132
- Writers Guild of America West

Editorial Boards:

- Sacramento Bee
- San Francisco Chronicle
- San Jose Mercury News
- East Bay Times

Internet Service Providers:

- California Association of Competitive Telecommunications Companies (CALTEL)
- Cogent Communications
- Cruzio Internet
- Sonic
- Spiral
- Unwired

Companies:

- ADT Security Systems
- Daily Kos
- Medium.com
- Reddit
- Sonos
- Twilio

Public Interest Groups:

- 18MillionRising.org
- Access Humboldt
- Alliance of Californians for Consumer Empowerment
- Asian American Alliance for Justice
- Brightline Defense
- Califa
- California Alarm Association
- California Freedom Coalition
- California State Students Association (CSSA)
- CCTV Center for Media & Democracy
- Center for Democracy and Technology
- Center for Media Justice
- Center for Rural Strategies
- Computer-Using Educators (CUE)
- Consumer Action
- Consumers Union
- Courage Campaign
- CreaTV San Jose
- CREDO Action
- Demand Progress Action
- Democracy for America
- Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund

- Equal Rights Advocates
- EveryLibrary
- Faithful Internet
- Fight for the Future
- Flip the Fourth
- Founder Academy
- FreePress
- Friends of the Millbrae Public Library
- Greenpeace USA
- Indivisible CA: StateStrong
- Indivisible North San Diego
- Indivisible Sacramento
- Indivisible SF
- Indivisible San Diego Central
- Indivisible Santa Cruz
- Indivisible Sausalito
- Indivisible Simi Porter Ranch
- Indivisible Sonoma County
- Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC)
- May First/People Link
- Mechanics' Institute Library
- Media Alliance
- Media Mobilizing Project
- National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients
- National Digital Inclusion Alliance
- New America's Open Technology Institute
- Nonprofit Technology Network
- Oakland Privacy
- Office of Ratepayer Advocates
- OpenMedia
- Oregon Citizens' Utility Board
- PEN America
- People Demanding Action
- Progressive Technology Project
- RootsAction.org
- San Bernardino County District Advocates for Better Schools (SANDABS)
- San Francisco Unified School District
- Small School Districts' Association
- SumOfUs
- Small Business Majority
- World Wide Web Foundation

Start-Ups:

- 3scan
- 8 Circuit Studios

- Ad Hoc Labs
- AdRoll
- Angel Investment Capital
- appliedVR
- Chute
- Climate Solutions Net
- Contextly
- Creative Action Network
- Degreed
- DLT Education
- DroneTV.com
- Evensi
- Founder Academy
- Girl Groove
- GitHub
- GoGo Technologies
- Golden
- Gusto
- Hackers/Founders
- Heartwood Studios
- HelloSign
- High Fidelity
- Homebrew
- iFixit
- Inflect
- Kaizena
- Karma+
- Libib, Inc.
- LoungeBuddy
- Mallonee&Associates
- Manargy
- Milo Magnus
- Mindhive
- MinOps
- Onfleet
- Pactio
- Patreon
- Pilotly
- Point.com
- REELY
- San Francisco Unified School District
- Starsky Robotics
- SV Angel
- Tesorio
- The Butcher Shop
- The Monger
- The Run Experience
- Tostie Productions
- Underdog Media
- Upgraded
- Venntive
- Woopie Media

Brick and Mortar Small Business:

- Agribody Technologies, Inc.
- Aixa Fielder, Inc.
- Alameda Motor
- Analysis of Motion
- Barnes Insurance
- BentonWebs
- bioeconomy partners
- Brian Boortz Public Relations
- C, Wolfe Software Engineering AND Pony
- Cartoonland
- Cheryl Elkins Jewelry
- Chris Garcia Studio
- Community Tech Network
- Compelling Animations
- Coordinating
- Corporate Host Services
- David's Amusement Co ,
- Digital Deployment
- Dragon's Treasure
- FREE GEEK
- Gold Business & IP Law
- Goodlight Natural Candles
- Grass Fed Bakery
- Grocery Outlet of Lompoc
- Horticultrist
- iHomefinder, Inc.
- inNative
- Intex Solutions, Inc.
- IR Meyers Photography
- Johnson properties
- Kahl Consultants
- Keller Williams Los Feliz
- Langlers WebWorks
- Lat13
- Leatherback Canvas
- Leet Sauce Studios, LLC
- Leverata, Inc
- Lisa LaPlaca Interior Design
- Logical Computer Solutions
- Magical Moments Event Planning & Massage
Serene Spa
- Melbees
- Merriman Properties LLC
- Mixt Media Art
- Mobile Citizen
- Mogin Associates
- Named Bill Tack
- Narrow Bridge Candles

- Nobody Cares Media
 - Obscure Engineering
 - Orthogonal, LLC
 - Paper Pastiche
 - Personhood Press
 - Pretty Me Store
 - Prosenenergy
 - Proxy Technologies, Inc.
 - Reid Case Management
 - RI Lopez Interpreter Services
 - San Diego Vacation Rentals & Sales
 - Silicon Harlem
 - SNAP Cats
 - spamedfit.com
 - Stauter Flight Instruction
 - Sternidae Industries
 - Suzi Squishies
 - Tarragon Consulting Corporation
 - Tech Goes Home
 - The Radio Doctor
 - Trader Ann's Attic
 - Tribd Publishing Co
 - TWB & Associates, INC.
 - UHF
 - UX Consulting
 - Valencia Studio Suites
 - Ventura Chiropractic
 - Vic DeAngelo IT Consulting
 - Wallin Mental Medical
 - Wonderlandstudios
 - Words 2 Wow Life Science Marketing
 - XPromos Marketing Mastery, LLC
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