



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®

March 20, 2017

William E. Brown
2017 President

Dale A. Stinton
Chief Executive Officer

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Jerry Giovaniello, Senior Vice President
Gary Weaver, Vice President
Joe Ventrone, Vice President & Deputy Chief
for Regulatory Affairs
Scott Reiter, Vice President
Jamie Gregory, Deputy Chief Lobbyist

500 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001-2020
Ph. 202-383-1194; Fax 202-383-7580
WWW.NAR.REALTOR

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR), I write to express NAR's belief that open internet rules are necessary to support a wide range of common business practices that rely on the Internet and which have improved the ability of real estate professionals to offer homebuyers and businesses the tools to efficiently make better informed decisions when looking for a new home or commercial site.

NAR supports network neutrality rules that protect American businesses and consumers by preventing Internet Service Providers (ISPs) not only from blocking, throttling, or discriminating against Internet traffic and prohibit paid prioritization arrangements, but also address interconnection issues and other anti-competitive practices covered by the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) general conduct rule. We urge you and your colleagues to oppose legislation and regulatory efforts that would threaten network neutrality and rollback important protections put in place by the FCC in 2015.

The Internet has been a driving force for innovation for decades, and our members, their customers, and local communities are benefiting from this innovation every day. The economic growth and job creation fueled by the open Internet is unprecedented in American economic history. This growth has been fostered by the FCC under both Republican and Democratic administrations for over a decade.

Our members, who identify themselves as REALTORS®, represent a wide variety of real estate industry professionals. REALTORS® have been early adopters of technology, and are industry innovators who understand that consumers today are seeking real estate information and services that are fast, convenient and comprehensive. Increasingly, technology innovations are driving the delivery of real estate services and the future of the real estate sales businesses.

Streaming video, Voice over Internet Protocol, cloud storage and mobile applications are commonly used in our businesses today. Without protections from the Open Internet Order, consumers may experience slow or degraded delivery of home search videos creating barriers in the very first step in the home buying process. In the future, new technologies, like virtual reality and telepresence among others, will be available that will no doubt require open internet access unencumbered by technical or financial discrimination.

The benefits of broadband Internet for innovation and economic development are unparalleled. However, the nation will lose those tremendous benefits if the Internet does not remain an open platform, where Americans can innovate without permission and with low barriers to launching small businesses and creating jobs. Given this reality, it is important that Congress work with the FCC to preserve open Internet policies that promote competition between Internet application and service providers. NAR remains ready to work with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

William E. Brown
2017 President, National Association of REALTORS®

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark which may be used only by real estate professionals who are members of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics.