



April 10, 2018

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 822 (Wiener) As Amended on March 13, 2018

Dear Senator Hueso,

This is to express our strong support of Senator Wiener's Senate Bill 822, which reinstates crucial protections that keep the Internet open and free.

SB 822 restores the Net Neutrality safeguards first codified into law during the Obama Administration in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2015 Open Internet Order. Under SB 822, the companies that own and operate the Internet would once again be barred from discriminating against data travelling across their networks. The bill reinstates the requirement that internet service providers must treat all online content the same. ISPs cannot charge extra for access based on the source of online content, and they cannot deliberately speed up or slow down traffic from specific websites or apps. These rules are crucial to the competition at the heart of what keeps the online economy – and our cities – so dynamic.

Sen. Wiener's bill could not come at a better time, as the Trump-designated FCC's 2017 net neutrality repeal will soon go into effect, leaving Americans unprotected from interference by their ISPs. As California cities expressed to the FCC throughout 2017, we rightly fear that without regulation, ISPs will abuse their power anti-competitively in ways that harm consumers. Without a fix to the current administration's repeal of net neutrality, there is a risk that ISPs will have even more power to make the Internet less affordable for our residents and our businesses.

Net Neutrality is about ensuring an equal playing field for all voices, companies, and products on the Internet. Californians depend on fast and reliable access to the entire Internet to access vital information and services and advance their own health, safety, and well-being. That is why our residents deserve an Internet that is treated as a universally accessible resource.

If SB 822 is signed into law, California can ensure that the future of the Internet is and will always be net neutral. As mayors, we call on the major internet service providers in our state to support SB 822. As the birthplace of the Internet, and perpetual home to entrepreneurs with new ideas, California should play as prominent a role as possible in protecting the Internet.



Sincerely,

Mark E. Farrell
Mayor, City and County of
San Francisco

Sam Liccardo
Mayor, City of San José

Libby Schaaf
Mayor, City of Oakland

Eric Garcetti
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

John Bauters
Mayor, City of Emeryville

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor, City of Sacramento