

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Miguel Santiago  
Chair, Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6027  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB 822 (Wiener) – California Net Neutrality Act**

Dear Assembly member Santiago:

On behalf of Cogent Communications, I write in support of Senate Bill 822 by Senator Scott Wiener.

Cogent is an Internet service provider (ISP) that supports net neutrality. We provide Internet access to businesses – users, content providers and other ISPs. These businesses depend on an open and free Internet. They need enforceable rules requiring net neutrality, including rules to maintain the exchange of traffic among networks. We would be happy to be subject to such rules.

Net neutrality refers to the principle that all websites and other online content should be equally available to consumers at the Internet speed provided for in their agreement with their ISP. Over the years the FCC has adopted rules to protect an open Internet. In 2015 the FCC adopted specific rules to enforce net neutrality. On December 14, 2017, a new FCC voted to repeal all net neutrality rules. Under the new FCC order, ISPs are now free to manipulate web traffic to decide which websites will be easily accessible and what content they want to restrict access to.

In the absence of federal protection of net neutrality states like California need to act to protect the rights of their citizens and to protect a free and open Internet. The recent FCC order purported to preempt state attempts to enact net neutrality protections. That assertion of authority is legally questionable. It should not be an excuse for states to fail to act where the federal government has abdicated its obligation to protect consumers.

SB 822 reinstates net neutrality policy in California and prevents ISPs from engaging in practices that are inconsistent with a free and open Internet.

Cogent Communications wholeheartedly supports SB 822.

Sincerely,

  
Dave Schaeffer  
CEO

CC: Members of the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee  
Edmond Cheung, Consultant, Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee  
Barbara Gausewitz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus