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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8004

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Pedersen, Chase, Rolfes, Kohl-Welles, Keiser, Darneille, and Cleveland

1 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
3 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CHAIR OF THE  
4 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, TOM WHEELER:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
7 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The Internet was designed to allow equal access for the  
9 promotion of knowledge and was developed with public resources for  
10 the benefit of the public; and

11 WHEREAS, The Internet is America's most important technology for  
12 promoting economic growth, fostering innovation, and encouraging free  
13 expression, and is increasingly becoming a globally democratizing  
14 resource; and

15 WHEREAS, Americans have become reliant on Internet access for  
16 civic discourse, commerce, education, medicine, and work; and

17 WHEREAS, The benefits of the Internet flow from its open  
18 architecture and low barriers of entry for content and application  
19 developers; and

20 WHEREAS, The Internet's open architecture furthers cultural  
21 diversity and enables people to build and maintain communities; and

22 WHEREAS, The providers of Internet access could threaten the  
23 openness of the Internet by blocking or slowing access to a

1 competitor's content or content that is not philosophically aligned  
2 with that of the provider, prioritizing access to favored content, or  
3 requiring payments to access certain content, all of which will harm  
4 consumers and stifle innovation, economic growth, and civic  
5 discourse; and

6 WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has issued a  
7 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on May 15, 2014, seeking to adopt rules  
8 that will defend and promote Internet openness;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully request:

10 (1) That the Congress of the United States of America take  
11 affirmative action to protect and promote the openness of the  
12 Internet;

13 (2) That failing such congressional action, the Federal  
14 Communications Commission adopt rules that will vigorously protect  
15 and promote the openness of the Internet; and

16 (3) That should the Federal Communications Commission take such  
17 action, the Congress of the United States of America refrain from  
18 enacting legislation that would thwart the efforts of the Federal  
19 Communications Commission.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
21 transmitted to the Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chair of the Federal  
22 Communications Commission, the President of the United States Senate,  
23 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of  
24 Congress from the State of Washington.

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