

April 8, 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,

We write in support of Senate Bill 822 by Senator Scott Wiener.

We are former chairs and commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission who worked hard to ensure that the internet revolution benefited all Americans and all sectors of the economy.

For decades, Republican and Democratic FCC chairs and commissioners have understood that internet service providers have the power to interfere with the internet's openness. When required, the FCC stepped in to prevent harm to this unique platform for free speech, diversity, innovation, and economic growth.

Responding to repeated legal challenges by ISPs to these FCC actions, the FCC in 2015 enshrined comprehensive net neutrality protections. These protections have been upheld twice in federal court. But in a radical shift, the FCC voted last December to eliminate all existing net neutrality protections for the nation's citizens, businesses and online services.

These protections are essential to our economy and democracy. SB 822 steps in to protect Californians and their economy by comprehensively restoring the protections put in place in the 2015 net neutrality order, including the brightline rules; the general conduct rule; and the safeguards against circumventing the rules via interconnection practices.

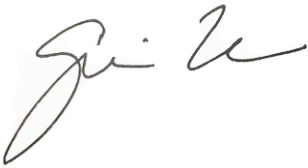
This is not a simple task. When codifying net neutrality protections by law rather than through regulations accompanied by explanatory text, it's easy to miss the full scope of the protections. SB 822 effectively translates the 2015 Order's protections into legislative language.

As former FCC chairs and commissioners, we wholeheartedly support this bill's protections for California residents and businesses, including its provisions pertaining to interconnection and zero-rating.

Sincerely,



Michael Copps



Gloria Tristani



Tom Wheeler

CC: Members of the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Nidia Bautista, Consultant, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communication Committee
Kerry Yoshida, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus