



April 9, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

Writers Guild of America West (WGAW) urges you to support H.R. 1644, the *Save the Internet Act*. This bill would restore the strong and enforceable net neutrality protections contained in the FCC's 2015 Open Internet Order.

For more than ten years, WGAW has been a vocal advocate for an open Internet. For our members, the open Internet has been an unqualified success, enhancing competition and increasing consumer choice. Despite decades of media consolidation resulting in a handful of companies controlling what stories are told on television, the open Internet has created new buyers for the content writers create, lowered the barriers to entry and permitted content to pass media's traditional gatekeepers. It has also provided new opportunities for underrepresented voices by expanding the demand for independent content. Nearly 100 original online video series created by Writers Guild of America members were released in 2017, contributing to the current Golden Age of programming for viewers.

Yet the open Internet will not continue to thrive without enforceable rules governing ISPs' business practices. Since the FCC repealed the Open Internet Order in December 2017, ISPs have demonstrated that they will interfere with consumers' access to content, services and applications if given the chance. They have the power to act as gatekeepers of content and to stifle the free market in ways that benefit their bottom lines but not the broader economy or society.

The *Save the Internet Act* is needed to reinstate the rules prohibiting blocking, throttling and paid prioritization, while also restoring the critical enforcement and oversight functions to the FCC. On behalf of our 10,000 members, we urge you to pass this bill without any harmful amendments.

Sincerely,

Corrina Freedman
Political and Legislative Director