



# Resolution

## URGING THE FCC TO REJECT HEAVY-HANDED REGULATION OF THE INTERNET

- WHEREAS** Free speech and free enterprise are bedrock principles that have allowed the Internet to grow and flourish.
- WHEREAS** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has instituted several proceedings over the years in an effort to exert authority over broadband providers and to regulate commercial decisions about, and consumer usage of, the Internet; however, twice the federal Court of Appeals has struck down such regulations.
- WHEREAS** During the FCC's most recent deliberation on "net neutrality," the President of the United States urged the independent federal agency to apply to broadband providers powers from Title II of the *Communications Act*, which allows for the regulation of "common carriers" as public utilities.
- WHEREAS** In public comments filed with the FCC in this proceeding last summer, NRB declared that "asserting jurisdiction under Title II with its heavy hand of telecommunications regulations is ill-advised."
- WHEREAS** The United States has in the past worked at the World Conference on International Telecommunications and other global assemblies to prevent increased international regulation of the Internet. However, asserting Title II power domestically could not only send a poor signal to nations that have or are considering more state governance of the Internet, but also it could appear to lend credence to arguments by certain repressive regimes that would like an international body like the International Telecommunications Union of the United Nations to have increased authority over the Internet.
- WHEREAS** The United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate have previously concurrently stated the "sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, should continue working to implement the position of the United States on Internet governance that clearly articulates the consistent and unequivocal policy of the United States to promote a global Internet free from government control and preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet today."
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** NRB urges the FCC to reject the use of Title II or any other heavy-handed regulatory approach to the Internet. NRB further urges the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the United States to uphold a position of a "light touch" toward the Internet and to continue to work to ensure principles of freedom, and particularly freedom of speech, on the Internet globally.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** NRB urges its members, as well as other freedom-loving Americans, to contact the White House, the FCC, and Congress to advocate for First Amendment principles to be honored on the Internet, and to urge that this attempt to apply Title II be rejected.

Approved by the Board of Directors February 23, 2015