



TELECOM AND MEDIA POLICY PRIORITIES – JUNE 2018

NET NEUTRALITY. In May of this year, the Senate passed a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to restore net neutrality rules that were eliminated last year by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Republican majority. The CRA has now moved to the House of Representatives. CWA supports the CRA as a first step toward federal legislation that would preserve three core open Internet principles: no blocking, no throttling, and no favorable treatment of some websites over others.

ONE TOUCH, MAKE READY. One Touch, Make Ready (OTMR) mandates that companies like Google can use contractors to move CWA employers' equipment on utility poles. In many locations, CWA members perform this make-ready work under terms of collective bargaining agreements. The FCC is considering adopting One Touch, Make Ready as nationwide policy – even where it violates collective bargaining agreements. CWA has been fighting to stop the FCC from adopting OTMR because it threatens worker and public safety, violates collective bargaining agreements, and destroys good jobs.

BROADBAND INVESTMENT. CWA supports Democratic lawmakers' \$40 billion broadband investment plan to accelerate deployment in unserved areas. The Democratic proposal stands in stark contrast to President Trump's yet-to-be-delivered infrastructure plan, which in its current draft is reported to allocate no money for broadband.

FACEBOOK AND DATA PRIVACY. The recent Facebook scandal – in which Facebook sold personal information about 87 million users to Cambridge Analytica – makes clear that it is long past time for Congress and federal regulators to take decisive action to protect Internet users' privacy. CWA supports comprehensive online privacy protections that apply across the Internet ecosystem – to both ISPs and Internet companies. Promising legislation to protect data privacy includes the MY DATA Act (S.964, introduced by Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT) and H.R.2356 introduced by Rep. McNerney (D-CA)), the BROWSER Act (H.R.2356 introduced by Rep. Blackburn (R-TN)), and the CONSENT Act (S.2639 introduced by Sen. Markey (D-MA) and Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT)).

SINCLAIR-TRIBUNE MERGER. CWA is fighting to stop the Sinclair-Tribune merger, a \$3.9 billion deal that would result in a broadcasting behemoth that would harm local news and kill jobs. The merger would create a far-right-wing media conglomerate reaching 72 percent of US households. As demonstrated by the recent video that went viral of local news anchors repeating company talking points, more consolidation under Sinclair would be bad for independent journalism. CWA supports the Local and Independent Television Protection Act (H.R.3478 introduced by Reps. Price (D-NC) and Huffman (D-CA)) that would eliminate the outdated UHF discount, preventing the Sinclair-Tribune merger.

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