



February 13, 2018

TO: House Committee on Rules  
FR: Charlie Fisher, State Director, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)  
RE: HB 4155

OSPIRG is a statewide, citizen-based organization that represents thousands of everyday Oregonians.

**OSPIRG supports HB 4115** as a means to keep the internet free and open to new ideas and concepts, create more opportunities for new companies to flourish, and prevent Internet Service Providers from discriminating against content from websites or services they don't own.

Recent federal action rolling back net neutrality has made it necessary for states to act. Without net neutrality, internet service providers (ISPs) like Comcast, Verizon and AT&T could potentially block or slow down lawful content, or create internet "fast lanes" that would favor certain sites and content over others. Smaller organizations could not afford to compete against sites willing to pay for such fast lanes. This means new companies, new ideas, and diverse cultural choices would suffer.

Net neutrality also makes the free exchange of ideas that is inherent to our democracy possible. The internet's openness enhances speech through its decentralized, neutral, nondiscriminatory transmission of data from origin to destination without interference. Consumers decide what information to seek out, instead of having that information picked and chosen for them. Because of net neutrality rules that promote nondiscriminatory speech, association, and content, the internet has become one of the leading marketplaces of ideas. Allowing ISPs to favor one kind of content over another undermines this principle.

We understand that HB 4155 is likely to be amended to only include provisions related to net neutrality, so this testimony is focused only on that part of the policy. However, we urge the legislature to raise the issue of ISP privacy again in the 2019 session and pass legislation that fully protects Oregonians' right to use the internet without having to sacrifice our privacy.

**For now, please support HB 4155 to promote net neutrality and a free and open internet in Oregon.**