



TECHNET
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Oregon House Bill 4155
Joanie Deutsch, Executive Director, Northwest, TechNet
Oregon House Committee on Rules

February 15, 2018

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

TechNet, which represents the nation's leading innovative technology companies, writes to you in respectful opposition to HB 4155. TechNet's members include breakthrough startups and the most storied, life-changing technology companies on the planet; we as an industry keep America's innovation economy growing and creating more good-paying jobs.

First and foremost, TechNet supports a fair and open internet. Because the internet is critical infrastructure that crosses state and global borders, implementing state specific net neutrality regimes is a delicate balancing act and needs to be given careful, thoughtful and informed consideration.

HB 4155 seeks to create a state specific regulatory framework, which includes requirements contained in the recently repealed FCC Open Internet Order; these requirements threaten to undermine the backbone of Oregon's internet economy. Specifically, the legislation directs and potentially authorizes the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC) to determine, define, and set principles for the internet. TechNet is concerned about the drastic shift from federal regulation to now proposed state authority by turning over the regulation of the internet to the PUC, a regulatory body which we respect but do not believe is the appropriate authority on this issue.

The final FCC rules repealing the Open Internet Order was published on January 4, 2018. The regulation of the internet deserves more thoughtful timeline and discussion and should not be rushed through the legislative process.

For these reasons we oppose HB 4155.