



Oregon Citizens' Utility Board

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CUB Supports HB 4155: Needed Now for Net Neutrality in Oregon

Voters created Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB) in a 1984 ballot measure to serve as our state's residential utility services customer advocate. CUB's extensive energy regulatory and legislative efforts complement an informed and strong voice for consumers on information and communications technology issues. **The guiding principle that fair, unencumbered, and affordable Internet service is necessary to participate in the modern age underpins CUB's strong support of the Open Internet or "net neutrality".**

In the wake of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) December 2017 decision to repeal their own net neutrality rules, HB 4155 is a strategic legislative solution that leverages the State's procurement authority to require that contracts between Internet service providers and public bodies adhere to net neutrality provisions:

HB 4155 is a Straight Forward Approach to Net Neutrality

HB 4155 <u>DOES</u> :	HB 4155 <u>DOES NOT</u> :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide direct customer benefit by forbidding public bodies from contracting with Internet service providers engaging in blocking (filtering content), throttling (slowing speeds), or paid prioritization (payment for preferential content) • Represent effective public policy by treating consumers, content creators, and providers fairly • Empower customers by requiring providers to publicly disclose speed and pricing information • Enlist the appropriate state agency, the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC), to outline public contract attestations and determine public disclosure requirements for service providers • Protect vulnerable customers as well as promote up-and-coming small business opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hamper technological or business innovation and new investment • Solve only a theoretical problem—because the problem is real and well documented; many service providers knowingly commit discriminatory acts • Give service providers the ability to prioritize certain content or certain creators of content • Empower Internet service providers with inappropriate "gatekeeper" powers • Give the OPUC any authority to regulate Internet service; their involvement is strategic and technical, and does not include oversight • Affect providers beyond those delivering service directly to customers

Net Neutrality Receives Overwhelming Bipartisan Support

December 2017 poll conducted by the University of Maryland School of Public Policy:

"Respondents were given a short briefing and asked to evaluate arguments for and against the proposal before making their final recommendation. The survey content was reviewed by experts in favor and against net neutrality, to ensure that the briefing was accurate and balanced, and that the strongest arguments were presented.

At the conclusion, 83% opposed repealing net neutrality, including 75% of Republicans, as well as 89% of Democrats and 86% of independents."

¹ <http://www.publicconsultation.org/united-states/overwhelming-bipartisan-majority-opposes-repealing-net-neutrality/>