February 14, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
House Commerce and Energy Committee  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
House Commerce Energy Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Open Internet

Dear Chairman Upton, Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Waxman, and Ranking Member Eshoo:

We write to urge your support for the FCC’s open Internet rule and rejection of a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act. Americans have come to depend on reliable open Internet access for their daily life and work. Yet without a light touch FCC rule, households, students and small businesses lack any recourse at all if their Internet Access Provider (IAP) decides to follow its natural economic incentive and technical ability to prioritize its own content and affiliated services or even block other end user choices.

The FCC’s December 2010 decision was adopted after several lengthy proceedings and unprecedented public input. The result is a very modest rule designed to preserve open non-discriminatory Internet access. In deference to the wishes of IAPs, the FCC completely avoided Title II common carrier regulation. The rule allows flexible network management and does nothing to inhibit broadband network deployment, while it affirmatively facilitates innovation and investment in new online services, content, applications and access devices by providing some minimal assurance they will not be blocked arbitrarily.
CRA repeal would actually leave the American public worse off than with no open Internet rule, as it would also rescind FCC authority in this area. Congress has repeatedly entrusted the FCC with a duty to protect the public interest in nationwide communications by wire and radio. No other agency can help your constituents with Internet access abuses if FCC authority is terminated.

Sincerely,

Ed Black
President & CEO
CCIA

Rey Ramsey,
President & CEO
Tech Net