

Commissioner Terrell McSweeney Reacts to FCC Vote in Favor of Rolling Back Net Neutrality Rules

May 18, 2017

Commissioner Terrell McSweeney issued the following statement in response to the Federal Communications Commission 2-1 vote initiating the process that would reverse Title II broadband classification.

“Today’s action by the FCC to begin the process of rescinding the Open Internet Order is a dangerous departure from bipartisan practice since the commercialization of the Internet began. I am concerned that the vision outlined today will lead to the stifling of innovation as large gatekeepers determine who can access broadband networks and what services and offerings they can provide. This puts greater power in a few broadband companies while stymieing the types of innovations and services that have made our economy more dynamic. Furthermore, it has been argued that this will help undo the harm of last month’s broadband privacy rollback. In my view, this is a false choice and one that Congress should remedy by removing the common carrier exemption in the FTC Act.

“The Open Internet Order merely enshrined what we all have recognized as a beneficial practice – that networks should not discriminate and that the free market should extend to the pipes and networks that are now at the core of our economy.”