



For Immediate Release:

INCOMPAS to FCC: CTO Email is a Potential Bombshell, Release the Redline Edits or Delay Net Neutrality Vote

FCC's own CTO warns that Net Neutrality plan is “not in public interest,” raises concerns about blocking and throttling

WASHINGTON, DC (Dec 13, 2017) – INCOMPAS, the streaming, internet and competitive networks association, is calling on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to release last minute changes made to its Order to repeal Net Neutrality, which is scheduled for a vote on Thursday.

In a breaking [story](#) in POLITICO Wednesday afternoon, it was reported that the FCC's own Chief Technology Officer (CTO), appointed by Chairman Ajit Pai, warned of significant problems with the Order in an internal email to all five Commissioners.

The news report indicates that CTO Eric Burger raised concerns that internet service providers (ISPs) will be able to block or throttle specific websites, saying that, “unfortunately, I realize we do not address that at all.”

The CTO's email also warned that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) does not have the authority to stop an ISP from blocking legal content, unless it is deemed such an action is explicitly anti-competitive. He said that such a practice, “is not in the public interest.”

Shifting into damage control, the FCC said that, “clarifying language was added to the order.”

INCOMPAS, who raised the very same, exact concerns in a [letter](#) to the FCC, is asking the FCC to delay the vote and release the redline changes to the Order for the public to see.

“We are curious to see how the Chairman's office was able to edit the Order to address the CTO's very important concerns in such a short time period. We have been asking the FCC to protect websites from ISP blocking and throttling for months, but to no avail,” said Angie Kronenberg, Chief Advocate and General Counsel for INCOMPAS.

“This is a potential bombshell for the court review. We call on the FCC to be fully transparent. They should share the redline edits to the Order, and release the email exchanges between the agency's technical staff and political staff resolving the issue, in order to help shed some light on the mystery surrounding the CTO's email.

“There has been a growing chorus of voices calling on the FCC to delay the vote – from Republicans in Congress, to the founders of the internet, to consumers and business owners from all across the country. This late-breaking warning from the FCC’s own CTO should give the agency pause while they provide the public an opportunity to weigh in.”

About INCOMPAS:

INCOMPAS, the Internet and competitive networks association, is the leading trade group advocating for competition policy across all networks. INCOMPAS represents Internet, streaming, communications and technology companies large and small, advocating for laws and policies that promote competition, innovation and economic development. Learn more at www.incompas.org or follow us on Twitter: @INCOMPAS @ChipPickering