



Resolution

Advocating Internet Freedom

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- WHEREAS** Free speech and free enterprise are bedrock principles that have allowed the internet to grow and flourish.
- WHEREAS** In 2015, the Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Tom Wheeler assumed new powers over internet service providers using Title II of the Communications Act, which allows for the regulation of “common carriers” as public utilities.
- WHEREAS** NRB opposed this application of Title II, particularly noting the poor signal it may send to nations that restrict internet communication or that may wish for an international body like the International Telecommunications Union of the United Nations to have increased authority over the internet. NRB applauded current FCC Chairman Ajit Pai’s “Restoring Internet Freedom” proceeding to roll back the assumption of those heavy-handed new powers over the internet.
- WHEREAS** NRB has urged caution about new regulatory regimes and has lauded the value of free enterprise. However, NRB also has commented to the FCC, “Any regulation of broadband providers requires a broad picture that includes an evaluation of the policies and practices of edge providers in order to protect the free speech interests of citizen users.”
- WHEREAS** NRB has documented that incidents of censorship of religious viewpoints by major edge providers, including Google, Facebook, and Twitter, are a growing problem.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB urges the United States to uphold a position of a “light touch” toward the internet and to continue to work to ensure principles of freedom on the internet globally.
- THEREFORE
BE IT
RESOLVED** NRB urges edge provider platforms to embrace their community responsibility to honor First Amendment values as refined by centuries of American jurisprudence and to faithfully apply those principles in their policies and practices.