



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** NRB opposed the application of Title II “common carrier” powers on internet service providers without congressional authorization. Noting the poor signal such a power grab 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 FCC Chairman Ajit Pai’s “Restoring Internet Freedom” proceeding to roll back the assumption of those heavy-handed new powers.
- WHEREAS** NRB has urged caution about new regulatory regimes that could stifle innovation or erode constitutional freedoms. 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 for years that censorship of religious viewpoints by major edge providers, including Google, Facebook, and Twitter, is a growing problem.
- WHEREAS** NRB has attempted to engage tech titans respectfully and constructively about this issue of viewpoint suppression, even as they have repeatedly asserted their desire to be platforms for users of diverse beliefs. NRB has also successfully urged America’s leaders in Washington, D.C. to devote attention to this issue.
- THEREFORE
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RESOLVED** NRB urges edge provider platforms to proactively and as an industry 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.
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RESOLVED** If ubiquitous tech titans continue to engage in viewpoint censorship, NRB urges Congress to creatively evaluate remedies aimed at discouraging such censorship and providing opportunity for citizens to seek redress against such discrimination. All the while, NRB also urges the United States to uphold and advance a position of a “light touch” toward the internet and to continue to work to ensure principles of freedom on the internet globally.