

PUBLIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS LETTER OF SUPPORT
RE: SB 822 (WIENER AND DE LEON) – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE
SEPTEMBER 7, 2018



September 7, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 822 (Wiener and De León) – Request for Signature

Dear Governor Brown,

California has a rare opportunity to stand up for consumers in the face of the wave of deregulation building in Washington. Passing strong, enforceable net neutrality protections to ensure an open internet for consumers, free of interference by ISPs would be a huge victory for Californians.

Consumers Union, along with the undersigned public interest organizations, strongly supports SB 822, the California Internet Consumer Protection and Net Neutrality Act of 2018. We urge you to sign this bill into law now that it has been passed by large majorities in both the California Senate and Assembly. Once enacted, SB 822 will comprehensively restore for Californians the net neutrality protections embodied in the Federal Communications Commission's *2015 Open Internet Order*. This is necessary because the federal rules were repealed last December by the new leadership at the Commission, at the urging and with the support of the nation's largest internet service providers (ISPs).

Net neutrality is the simple principle that consumers—and not the ISPs they already pay monthly access fees to—get to choose which apps, services and websites they want to use. Net neutrality also ensures that competition and the free market, not backroom agreements by ISPs, determine winners and losers online, and that all voices, including those of speakers without deep pockets, have a fair chance to be heard online.

SB 822 successfully translates these protections into legislative language by prohibiting ISPs from: blocking, slowing down or speeding up websites, apps, and classes of apps; charging websites for access to the ISPs' customers or for prioritized access to those customers; circumventing net neutrality rules through interconnection practices; and engaging in abusive zero-rating practices that ultimately limit consumer choice and competition.

We fully endorse SB 822. This pro-consumer legislation will preserve the open internet that has become vital to all of our everyday lives. Californians, consumers and businesses alike, benefit when the internet is a level playing field and not a place where ISPs can pick winners and losers. You can help ensure that level playing field by signing SB 882 into law.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you wish to discuss any of the matters discussed above.

Sincerely yours,



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Cosignatories:

Access Humboldt	Indivisible Los Angeles, CA-43
Action Together Bay Area	Indivisible Marin
California Clean Money Campaign	Indivisible Sacramento/Elk Grove
California Common Cause	Indivisible SF
Change Begins with ME (Indivisible)	Indivisible San Jose
Color of Change	Indivisible Sherman Oaks
Common Cause	National Hispanic Media Coalition
Courage Campaign	New America's Open Technology Institute
Electronic Frontier Foundation	Public Knowledge
Faithful Internet	RootsAction.org
Fight for the Future	United Church of Christ, OC Inc.
Indivisible	Voices for Progress
Indivisible CA: StateStrong	Writers Guild of America West