



DATE: June 14, 2019

TO: Craig J. Coughlin, Speaker of the New Jersey Assembly
Nicholas Chiaravalloti, Assemblyman, 31st District

FROM: Dustin Brighton
State Government Affairs Representative, CompTIA

RE: **IT Industry Testimony in Opposition to A 2131, A2132, A 2139**

Speaker Coughlin and Assemblyman Chiaravalloti, my name is Dustin Brighton and I am a State Government Affairs Representative for the Northeast for the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA). On behalf of CompTIA and the more than 2000 information technology companies we represent, including internet service providers (ISPs) and internet companies, I appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective on three pieces of legislation relating to the state procurement of broadband services and infrastructure. These proposed bills are A 2131, A 2132, and A 2139.

We at CompTIA believe that the internet should be a place where all businesses, regardless of size can compete with one another on a level playing field. Consumers, thus, should be able to access whatever legal online content they want.

However, we are concerned that inconsistent, state-specific laws regulating net neutrality, such as A 2131, A2132, and A 2139 on these complicated and highly technical issues would have far-reaching, unintended consequences that could disrupt the operation of the internet for New Jersey consumers and businesses, as well as threaten the state's strong and vibrant technology industry. We oppose this legislation and urge against further consideration.

Enactment of A 2131, A 2132, and A 2139 would have a negative impact on New Jersey consumers and businesses. The development and use of the internet has contributed substantially to the overall New Jersey economy. Not only have businesses in New Jersey prospered because of the internet as developed under the current laws, but residents have been able to experience and take advantage of the access to content online, such as news, entertainment, and other beneficial services. If enacted, this legislation threatens to undermine the internet that has become part of the daily lives of millions of American consumers.

We believe that creating new and different standards for ISPs in New Jersey would mandate highly disruptive and burdensome consent requirements for internet users and even create significant hurdles to use of the internet. A state by state approach, which will inevitably vary, would create a patchwork of different requirements, fundamentally impacting how the internet operates.

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A 2131, A 2132, and A 2139 would lead to a patchwork of conflicting state laws on net neutrality. CompTIA has been supportive of an open internet for many years at the federal level and believes the Internet must remain open to promote innovation and economic growth. That includes vigilant enforcement by federal legislation. However, we do not believe state level net neutrality legislation will achieve the goals to promote or protect an open internet, as this issue should not be governed by differing state laws. In fact, we believe that this bill would be counter-productive and would result in uncertainty and decreased innovation in New Jersey.

Conclusion

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our views on these issues. Given the ever-evolving nature of the internet as well as the jurisdictional issues at play within the federal government, internet neutrality is a complex issue. State legislation to regulate ISP privacy is unnecessary as privacy protections are already addressed by current federal and state laws. Additionally, we urge the General Assembly to wait for the federal process to play out regarding net neutrality and not open the door to the creation of a 50-state patchwork of regulations. For these reasons, we are opposed to these three pieces of legislation.

CompTIA is a non-profit trade association representing the information technology industry. With over 2000-member technology companies, 3000 academic and training partners, and more than two million IT certifications issued, CompTIA is dedicated to advancing industry growth through educational programs, market research, networking events, professional certifications and public policy advocacy. For more information, please visit comptia.org.

