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Net Neutrality Sustains Support Services, Says AARP

Favors Reclassification of Broadband as a Public Utility

WASHINGTON, DC—A draft outline of regulations for Internet service providers, introduced today by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler, would preserve important consumer protections and innovation, according to AARP.

Wheeler's proposal would regulate Internet service, including mobile broadband, as a public utility under Title II of the 1934 Communications Act. While still awaiting the entire scope of the proposed rule, AARP had urged Title II reclassification in comments filed with the FCC last year.

"The unfettered competition which has existed on the Internet to date has led to innovations in home automation, medical monitoring and other services which support aging-in-place," said Nancy LeaMond, Executive Vice President, State and National Group, AARP. "Today's proposal, which would maintain net neutrality, facilitates continued development of these types of services for the benefit of the 50+ population and other consumers."

In its [comments filed](#) with the FCC last July 15, AARP said, "The widespread availability of high quality and affordable broadband connections -- both fixed and mobile -- is enabling new applications and services that are enhancing older Americans' quality of life, including new methods of delivering healthcare and

support for independent living. Policies to promote a vibrant and competitive Internet ecosystem are essential for the continuation of this success."

FCC commissioners will vote on adoption of the proposal at the FCC's Feb. 26 open meeting.

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About AARP

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

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