Representative Dan Ramos
House District 56

House Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee
House Concurrent Resolution 18 Sponsor Testimony
Representatives Thomas West and Dan Ramos
January 31, 2018

Chair Roegner, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the Federalism and Interstate Relations Committee. Again, thank you for providing us the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 18. I would also like to thank Representative West for agreeing to be a joint sponsor on this important legislation.

Net Neutrality protects the free market. Without Net Neutrality, ISPs could force companies to pay huge fees or risk having their website slowed down dramatically. A tiny number of massive companies would be able to bend the rules in their favor, hurting other emerging markets and limiting competition that relies on a level playing field.

If you start a new business -- let's say a travel website -- and your travel website is better than competitors, you should be rewarded by the market. However, if your small business does not have the funds to pay ransom to Comcast, AT&T, and Verizon, you will not be able to compete against existing companies like Expedia, even if your product is better. This gives huge, existing companies with large cash reserves the ability to perpetually dominate the market, while locking innovative small businesses out.

Net neutrality is not a partisan issue. It was first enforced under George W Bush's FCC and was upheld by Barack Obama's FCC. [A recent poll](#) shows that 83% of Americans support net neutrality, including 75% of Republicans, 89% of Democrats, and 86% of independents. Try finding another proposal that 83% of Americans agree on – there are not many. This is not a time to let lobbyists or political donors trump the overwhelming will of our constituents. We owe it to Ohioans to support net neutrality as an essential consumer protection.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on this issue. We look forward to taking your questions.