February 27, 2018

Re: Net Neutrality

Dear Colleagues:

We bring this resolution forward at the request of our County Librarian and MARINet. We would appreciate your support, in recognition of the public’s right to have equal access to the information in the County of Marin.

On December 14, 2017 the Federal Communications Commission voted 3-2 to repeal all protections in its 2015 Open Internet order. The internet is the primary mechanism for delivering information, services and applications to the general public, and it is especially important that commercial Internet Service Providers are not able to control or manipulate the content of these communications. If net neutrality were repealed, Internet Service Providers could censor the internet through slow-downs of traffic or complete blocking, prevent information from being made available to the public, and prevent diverse and varying viewpoints from being heard.

Though net neutrality is important to each of us, the implications to libraries are significant. Libraries would potentially need to pay Internet Service Providers extra fees so curated, current, and historical content can be delivered on the same terms as commercial content providers. Many people in Marin county, especially low-income families and individuals, depend on their local library for free and open access to the internet.

Respectfully,

Damon Connolly

Dennis Rodoni