

Institute for Liberty cautions Congress to 'stand down' on internet regulation

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Fighting Internet Unfairness the FCC's Job

FAIRFAX, Va. - The Institute for Liberty said Wednesday the Federal Communications Commission is capable of executing its responsibility to ensure there is no discrimination by Internet network companies against Internet content providers.

IFL noted that net neutrality laws now being considered by some in Congress could have the unintended consequence of preventing the Internet from reaching its full potential.

IFL's president, Jason Wright, reiterated IFL's position in advance of today's House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet FCC oversight hearing. "The Internet has grown and developed into the technological, commercial, entertainment and information marvel it is now because it has been permitted to do so in response to free market forces and with little government involvement."

The "Net Neutrality Scare Ticker", a project of the Internet Freedom Coalition, of which IFL is a co-founder, has been tracking the activities and bogus claims of those groups, associations and powerful computer and Internet companies seeking to regulate the Internet. Said Wright, "Most people don't realize these groups began their 'the sky is falling' routine all the way back in 2002. That's the great thing about the 'Ticker'. Just take a look. As of today, since those interests first cried foul, the Internet has enjoyed 1575 days, 12 hours, 15 minutes and 42 seconds without a 'net neutrality' problem."

Wright noted that, should any abuse ever occur, the regulatory authority to address the problem already exists without the need for preemptive legislation that could risk further investment in expanding infrastructure. "When Congress reviews the FCC's track record of halting unfair practices among Internet players, I hope they reach the correct conclusion: when the free market doesn't take care of the problem on its own, the FCC has proven it has the jurisdiction, tools and competence to eliminate any such problems that might arise."

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