



Internet Association

November 11, 2016

President-elect Donald J. Trump
Trump-Pence Transition Team
1717 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President-elect Trump:

Congratulations on your recent election. The Internet Association and its 40 member companies are writing to you today because innovation emerging from America's internet industry drives significant economic growth throughout our economy. Businesses of all sizes are able to connect with new customers at the touch of a button and compete on a global scale in ways impossible just a decade ago.

Nowhere was this more apparent than your use of the internet to connect with, and energize voters throughout the campaign. The internet industry looks forward to working with you on policies that encourage this kind of growth, innovation, and consumer choice.

The internet sector is responsible for 6 percent of the economy – nearly \$1 trillion of GDP in 2014. Approximately \$8 trillion are exchanged globally through e-commerce each year, and the internet accounted for 21 percent of GDP growth in advanced economies over the past five years. The economic engine created by leading U.S. internet platforms and services is fundamental to America's competitiveness in a global information era. Our country's foundation of digital entrepreneurship flows from policy decisions the United States government made long ago to encourage continued innovation and a vibrant e-commerce marketplace. These policies have allowed the internet industry to flourish in the U.S. and to export our products and services worldwide.

From its inception, the internet was built on an open architecture that lowers entry barriers, fosters innovation, and empowers choice. The internet represents the best of American innovation, freedom and ingenuity. The internet now provides individuals and small businesses with instant access to company information, product reviews, price comparisons, and free marketing tools. With these benefits come a commitment from the internet industry to provide innovative products and services while maintaining privacy and safety online. From standardizing data security and breach notification, to protecting encryption standards across digital technologies, leaders in public office must recognize the importance of the internet as a place where people can share their information and ideas and start and grow their businesses from anywhere in the United States.



Internet Association

Included with this letter is a roadmap of key policy areas that have allowed the internet to grow, thrive, and ensure its continued success and ability to create jobs throughout our economy. The internet industry looks forward to engaging in an open and productive dialogue. Thank you for your consideration of the following policy priorities.

Sincerely,

President & CEO



A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

Our economy and society benefit from continued innovation and technological advancement in the internet industry. The U.S. is the global leader in online innovation thanks to the entrepreneurs and innovators creating transformative technologies and platforms, like cloud computing, in our communities. In turn, this innovation fuels our national economy and provides unprecedented benefits to society. Our global competitiveness depends on keeping the best and brightest minds in the U.S., rather than exporting future innovators to our global competitors.

Enhance U.S. STEM and Computer Science Education: While it is critical to improve our immigration system to accommodate foreign graduates and foreign professionals, we must also support policies that encourage increased STEM education in the U.S. to train the next generation of domestic workers in high-growth career fields.

Support Immigration Reform: The U.S. immigration system must allow more high-skilled graduates and workers to stay in the United States and contribute to our economy. To accomplish this, the U.S. must expand and improve the Green Card program, including the creation of a STEM Green Card system.

Increase Diversity in Tech: Support policies that build a long-term foundation for improving diversity in the tech industry, including providing additional funding to support tech education pipelines for individuals from rural America and underrepresented communities.

INTERMEDIARY LIABILITY

It is not by accident or chance that the U.S. is the global leader in online innovation. Twenty years ago, internet platforms began to flourish because new laws protected platforms from being held liable for information posted and shared by users. Intermediary liability laws and policies protect free speech and creativity on the internet. This, in turn, generates substantial value for our economy and society through increased scale, greater diversity, and lowered barriers to entry for creators and entrepreneurs. Threats of excessive liability can transform internet service providers and companies, which often lack the knowledge necessary to make legal decisions about the nature of content, into enforcement agents that block user content and make the web less free, innovative, and collaborative.

Weakening intermediary liability laws would not only chill innovation and free expression online, but would also threaten investment in the next generation of ideas fueling our digital economy. If digital content intermediaries were responsible for the content uploaded by users, over 80 percent of investors would be less likely to fund startups. In addition, 85 percent of investors are uncomfortable investing in digital content intermediaries open to unpredictable legal action.

Uphold Section 230 Protections for Intermediaries: Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA) protects internet platforms from requirements to police their users' actions and shields internet providers from liability related to users' speech. By limiting legal pressures, Section 230 paves the way for diverse internet platforms by ensuring intermediaries are not



forced to police online speech, enabling digital entrepreneurs to focus on building products and services that people can use to express their viewpoints or find customers. The clarity and certainty provided under Section 230 is indispensable for the continued investment and growth in user-generated content platforms, which provide extraordinary economic, social, and cultural benefits through free expression online. Attempts to deviate from this successful policy and force platforms to regulate online speech will undermine U.S. leadership in advancing both the economic and democratic powers of the internet.

Support the Copyright Safe Harbors: The safe harbors included in Section 512 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) provide flexible yet robust parameters from which responsible internet companies can operate in good faith in order to grow and adapt across time and technical evolution. Under Section 512, internet platforms receive liability protection only if they meet certain requirements, including the expeditious removal of specific identified content flagged by rights-holders. Safe harbors provide flexibility that creates a future-proof framework in which private parties are incentivized to efficiently comply with the law and work collaboratively on private sector efforts tailored to the unique needs of platforms and creators.

The safe harbors are a system of legal certainty that remains the gold standard worldwide for fostering innovative online ecosystems beneficial to creators and service providers alike. Under the shared responsibilities of the notice and takedown system, both rights holders and digital platforms have flourished as consumers increasingly rely on the internet for access to legal content. Efforts to weaken the safe harbors would create legal uncertainty, force internet companies to police the web, chill innovation and free expression online, and undermine the collaborative framework of the law.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright law is foundational to the internet industry's ability to enhance free expression, creativity, and commerce. Copyright law was conceived of and exists as a whole entity. This entity includes fair use, exemptions, compulsory licenses, the first sale doctrine, and other provisions that further the public good. The United States is home to the most creative and innovative economy in the world, where the growth of new platforms and expressions derives from robust recognition of the balance in copyright law underpinning our global competitiveness.

Consistent with the Copyright Clause of the U.S. Constitution, the balance and flexibility provided by U.S. copyright law enables free speech, economic growth, and the development of new technologies and creative content. Copyright policies must prioritize the public interest by protecting innovation and freedom of expression online, encouraging new forms of follow-on creative works, and ensuring users have access to legal content. Threats to the flexible framework, such as weakening limitations or exceptions to safe harbors, would create barriers to entry for internet startups and creators, which would deny users the ability to access content online.

Protect Robust Flexibilities in Law that Support Legal User Access: Strong limitations and exceptions in copyright law, such as fair use, allow the public to access legal content and create new forms of follow-on creative works. Fair use enables U.S. internet services to provide snippets of news articles, show thumbnails of photos, index copies of webpages for search



purposes, store and transfer information around the world via cloud services, analyze large data samples to build machine learning tools, and launch countless other current, and future, innovations. These fair use-dependent services empower consumers, help creators connect globally, and fuel the U.S. economy. Vigorous protection of the balance and flexibilities in copyright law, both domestically and globally, is needed today even more than during the internet's infancy because the diversity, scale, and global accessibility offered by the internet has grown since its early days.

Grow a Successful Digital Music Marketplace: Digital music services are driving growth in the music industry and transforming the way consumers access creative works. Support for a functionally competitive music ecosystem, including compulsory licensing and vigorous oversight of consent decrees, will protect America's artists, small businesses, digital platforms, and consumers. To fully bring the legal framework governing musical works into the digital era, policy changes should focus on (1) efficiency of licensing works; (2) fairness in law that encourages, rather than stifles, new and innovative services that lower barriers to entry for artists; and (3) transparency of information, including a database of ownership data, which remains elusive and unavailable, exacerbating difficulties in licensing of works.

Modernize the U.S. Copyright Office: The U.S. Copyright Office serves a critical role in advancing the public interest and promoting the useful arts. It provides access to creative works, in turn fostering economic, social, and cultural value throughout the United States and the world. Internet companies depend on the U.S. Copyright Office for clarity, transparency, and effective administration of balanced copyright laws. To ensure the Office meets the needs of diverse stakeholders and the public interest in the 21st century, policymakers should examine administrative and policy practices at the Office to ensure processes are inclusive of all stakeholders and that the technology of the Office advances the goal of accessibility of works.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Data driven innovation is emerging as an essential tool to improve our growth and prosperity. Data reduces the need for guesswork and increases the chance of getting it right. Data driven innovation is harnessing the power of data to better understand the world around us, and it is using that understanding to solve problems, create efficiencies, and invent new products. Innovating with data creates significant benefits for businesses:

- Companies at the frontier of data analytics generate between 7-10 percent better productivity, which is consistent across industries and companies of different sizes and ages.¹
- Companies in the top third of their industry in the use of data driven decision-making are 6 percent more profitable than their competitors.²
- Data could provide as much as \$300 billion in additional value to the U.S. healthcare sector.³

¹ McKinsey Global Institute, "Big data," 2011, <http://goo.gl/AlvVzs>.

² McAfee and Brynjolfsson, "Big Data: The Management Revolution," HBR, 2012, <https://goo.gl/MQzMVo>.

³ McKinsey Global Institute, "Big data," 2011, <http://goo.gl/AlvVzs>.



People, as consumers, are the ultimate winners from data innovation, which improves their lives by:

- Getting them to work on time with accurate traffic data from the aggregated location of others.
- Healing them with the latest healthcare services developed using anonymized patient data.
- Lowering prices through increased transparency and the ability to check for better deals.

However, new regulatory proposals on how data is used and collected threaten to reduce this value. U.S. policy must ensure businesses in every U.S. industry can keep a competitive edge by innovating with data. To do so, policies should champion data innovation by acknowledging the crucial role of data in the modern economy and promote pro-innovation rules. This includes taking a harms-based approach to consumer privacy, instead of a collection-based approach, and stopping data minimization efforts or other proposals that would inhibit innovation. In addition, federal enforcement agencies should focus on data security, partner with consumer groups to drive security best practices, and commit more resources to fight identity theft (the top consumer complaint for 15 years).⁴ Finally, policies should enable teachers to use online tech to boost educational outcomes for students.

Support Reforms to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA): Laws governing online privacy protections for electronically stored communication are more than 30 years old—predating the modern internet and critical technology such as cloud computing. Internet users must have the same protections for their inbox as they do for their mailbox. Updating ECPA to include a warrant for content stored across technologies, regardless of where it is stored or for how long, is overdue. ECPA must be updated to reflect the significant role that internet commerce plays in global commerce.

Protect Strong Encryption: Strong encryption is critical to national and individual security. Encryption is key to national defense, and it also protects our nation's financial system and critical infrastructure. It also protects users from repressive governments looking to stifle speech and democracy, and it shields users from nefarious actors seeking to steal their sensitive data. Laws that require companies to engineer vulnerabilities into products and services harm personal privacy and endanger national security. Support for strong encryption makes America more secure.

Surveillance Reform: Passage of the USA Freedom Act is a positive step, but it addressed only a limited subset of surveillance concerns. Congress should consider reforms to Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and Executive Order 12333, which have been used in ways that are inconsistent with the important privacy values reflected in the Constitution and lack due consideration for the privacy interests of non-U.S. persons.

Improve Cross-Border Law Enforcement Data Access: Law enforcement authorities outside the U.S. have grown increasingly frustrated with the inability to readily obtain content data from U.S. companies for legitimate law enforcement investigations. The U.S.-U.K. agreement should

⁴ FTC, "Identity Theft Tops FTC's Consumer Complaint Categories," 2015, <https://goo.gl/Wn9Ec5>.



be enacted and serve as a model for further bilateral agreements that enable content access while protecting users' rights, and additional resources should be allocated toward improving the efficiency of the existing Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) process.

OPEN & ACCESSIBLE INTERNET

The internet belongs to no single entity; instead it thrives as a borderless medium for growth and expression that 21st century businesses and consumers depend on for access to information, products, and services. Both the public interest and our global competitiveness alike will benefit from the continued accessibility and openness of the internet, which thrives under a bottom-up governance structure that avoids picking winners and losers.

Support a Robust Multistakeholder Governance Structure: Internet governance forums should not be subject to capture by any one stakeholder or group of stakeholders, including national governments. It is important to maintain well-constructed multistakeholder governance models that contain checks and balances, lead to consensus-driven decision-making, and prevent internet balkanization or fragmentation. This important governance structure will result in long-term benefits for all internet stakeholders.

Ensure an Open Internet: At its core, net neutrality is a principle that underpins a free and open internet. It ensures equal access to content by prohibiting paid prioritization, throttling, and blocking. The internet must be a place where companies can compete on a level playing field. Additionally, with more people accessing the internet through their mobile devices, any net neutrality rules must apply equally to mobile broadband. There is only one internet, and rules must be consistent no matter how consumers connect.

Promote Broadband Access: Access to high speed internet is no longer a luxury in today's economy—it is a necessity. Policies expanding consumer access to broadband services, as well as promoting competition and choice in the marketplace, will ultimately boost our digital economy and best serve communities nationwide. Broadband access should be promoted at the local, state, and federal level in all communities across the country, both urban and rural. U.S. policy should facilitate deployment without delay by streamlining regulations for municipalities and simplifying them to convey requirements on what is needed for investment in geographic regions. Additionally, the government should advance policies that balance licensed and unlicensed spectrum use, enable the private sector to drive efficient use via spectrum sharing and dynamic spectrum allocations, and use reverse auctions to free up unlicensed spectrum.

Protect Novel Business Models to Promote Connectivity: Expanding connectivity—particularly among underserved and underprivileged communities—is key to ensuring that all Americans can enjoy the benefits of the digital economy. Policies should not preclude novel business models from promoting connectivity such as “zero rating” that are non-exclusive, open, and uphold core net neutrality principles.

Fight Internet Disruptions Worldwide: The increasing number of governments disrupting or shutting down access to the internet and communications networks is deeply troubling. Blocking internet services undermines economic activity and development, threatens free expression, and



restricts the free flow of information. The U.S. government should take a more active role in highlighting this issue and opposing such actions.

TRADE AND GLOBAL INTERNET POLICY

Trade today takes place with the click of a button or the swipe of an app. Millions of small business owners, developers, entrepreneurs, artists, and content creators participate in the global exchange of goods and services through technology that relies on the free and open internet. Supporting strong digital trade policies that promote the free flow of knowledge and information across borders, and advancing a fully balanced copyright framework that reflects U.S. law are both vital to the continued growth of this globally connected marketplace and the advancement of a new vision of modern and inclusive trade. Trade agreements should foster a more seamless trading ecosystem, prevent balkanization across localities, and increase access to information for citizens around the world. To combat the rise of digital protectionism and strengthen U.S. export leadership in the digital economy, the internet industry supports the continued inclusion of comprehensive pro-internet policies in trade agreements and U.S. diplomacy. Trade negotiations should also be more inclusive to ensure smaller entrepreneurial businesses and the diverse voices of the internet community are heard.

Press for Strong Intermediary Liability Protections in Our Trading Partners: Intermediary liability protections are under threat abroad. Censorship and website blocking are creating significant market access barriers for U.S. companies doing business globally. Foreign governments are exerting a heavier hand of control by cracking down on free speech, requiring monitoring of user content, and subjecting online platforms to crippling liability for the actions of individual users for things like defamation, “dangerous” speech, or political dissent. To promote digital trade—and ensure that U.S. platforms and small businesses can continue to reach global markets—it is critical the U.S. Trade Representative advocates for intermediary liability protections abroad similar to those in Section 230 of the CDA and Section 512 of the DMCA.

Support Balanced Intellectual Property Provisions: To drive U.S. economic growth, the U.S. must promote a fully balanced framework of intellectual property laws in its trade agreements and foreign diplomacy. Innovative internet companies, as well as the U.S. small businesses that use internet services to reach global customers, require balanced copyright rules in other regions in order to do business in those markets. Yet these services increasingly face barriers to entry in countries that lack adequate intellectual property regimes. The internet sector strongly believes copyright policy in trade agreements must reflect and promote the balanced framework in U.S. law, which provides not only strong protections and enforcement, but also robust and flexible limitations and exceptions, including fair use and copyright safe harbors. Without these flexibilities, a website could not provide snippets and links to other websites, an internet service could not “cache” copies of files—which allows an internet browser to respond to inputs in a matter of milliseconds—and artists could not produce mash-ups of existing content to create new works. If the U.S. simply exports one part of U.S. law, such as strong copyright protection and enforcement, and not critical limitations and exceptions that enable the digital economy, we will risk losing U.S. export leadership in the digital economy.

Prevent Erection of Barriers to Internet Success in Europe: Europe is developing a Digital Single Market strategy that is an important effort to grow its digital economy by breaking down



barriers between its 28 member states. Unfortunately, elements of the proposal, such as imposing monitoring requirements on online platforms and restricting the ability of websites to include snippets from other websites, will harm the open internet and diverge sharply from U.S. and prior EU law. There is growing pressure to misdirect the strategy to regulate online platforms and erect barriers that would make it harder to innovate. The U.S. and Europe should stand together to create a leadership model for governments that have a decidedly different vision of the internet, like China and Russia. If Europe imposes heavy-handed digital regulatory regimes, it will undermine the ability of our governments to stand united against more underhanded efforts elsewhere in the world.

The United States should:

- Advocate for an innovation friendly reform agenda to drive European digital jobs and growth, and highlight problems with increasing the regulation of online platforms.
- Strengthen innovation and open markets by promoting a “transatlantic” digital single market.
- Highlight problems with European restrictions on innovation such as data localization, the right to be forgotten, and imbalanced copyright.

Cross-Border Data Flows: Movement of electronic information across borders is critical to global businesses, but the rules governing flows of digital goods, services, and data are often uncertain or antagonistic toward U.S. internet services. Trade agreements should include provisions that protect legitimate cross-border information flows, including language support for multilateral frameworks that ensure privacy while enabling data flows. Trade agreements should also prohibit data localization or other measures that link market access or other commercial benefits to investment or use of local infrastructure. Finally, the U.S. should push back on the increasing number of measures abroad that seek to restrict the growth of online services by subjecting these services to legacy regulations designed for telecommunications infrastructure or broadcasting services, which is directly opposite to the US approach.

Reduce Customs Barriers for 21st Century Exporters: Improving customs processes by harmonizing *de minimis* thresholds, and urging our trading partners to increase *de minimis* thresholds where they are artificially low, would decrease barriers faced by internet-enabled U.S. businesses. Additionally, provisions ensuring duty free treatment for all technology goods and services and the limitation of non-tariff barriers imposed on technology and other goods would allow internet-enabled small businesses to engage in frictionless global trade and commerce.

PATENT REFORM

Internet companies experience the patent system from all sides: as owners of intellectual property and as targets of damaging troll litigation. High quality patents promote innovation and encourage inventors to invest in the development of new, useful products. Low quality patents, on the other hand, stifle innovation by creating business uncertainty and opening the door to wasteful litigation. Patent law remains an area of intense litigation and uncertainty due to entities often referred to as patent trolls, which cost our economy tens of billions of dollars per year. These entities incite high-cost, baseless litigation, which diverts resources from productive business research and development.



Access to a cheap supply of vague, overly broad, low-quality patents in our system provides trolls the ammunition they need to engage in abusive litigation against unknowing businesses by asserting these unclear patents. There is no single action that would eliminate low-quality patents and the harm they bring to our innovation economy. Instead, a dynamic and multifaceted approach to reform all sectors of the patent system is necessary to maintain U.S. global competitiveness and economic growth.

Support Venue Reform: Opportunistic patent trolls have exploited the lack of reasonable venue law to shop for favorable forums and force defendants, including small and independent inventors, to litigate in distant venues unrelated to the case in question. This is especially true in the Eastern District of Texas, where their strategy is not just working, but getting worse. Seven years ago, the Eastern District of Texas received just nine percent of patent cases. Today, it is home to nearly half of patent cases nationwide, with about 95 percent of those cases filed by trolls. Local rules disadvantaging defendants, disproportionate win rates, unreasonable damage awards, and expansive, inequitable discovery practices attract trolls to East Texas. Currently, their embedded business model is thriving as a form of legalized extortion. The Internet Association supports venue reform that narrows the judicial districts that have jurisdiction over patent infringement lawsuits to only those districts that have a material connection to the alleged infringement.

Support Litigation Reforms: In addition to venue reform, the Internet Association strongly supports targeted litigation reforms that weaken the troll business model. Necessary reforms include heightened pleading standards, which will make litigation more transparent and encourage early adjudication of infringement claims; limiting initial discovery to claim construction, which will deter patent trolls from running up discovery costs and forcing small businesses to settle; and by clarifying in statute the standard for fee shifting in extraordinary cases, which will ensure that trolls who bring meritless cases cannot shield themselves entirely from responsibility.

Uphold Critical Patent Subject Matter Eligibility Standards: In *Alice v. CLS Bank*, the Supreme Court struck down the validity of patent claims that recited a non-technical abstract idea under the judicial exception for abstract ideas under Section 101. The *Alice* decision that confirmed Section 101 of the Patent Act has an important role to play in ensuring that patents encourage innovation rather than hinder it by focusing on real advances in technology rather than broad, vague business methods and abstract ideas that fuel patent troll litigation. Software and servers that implement novel and useful processes that provide a technical solution to a technical problem, for example, are eligible for patenting under Section 101, and recent cases including *Enfish, LLC v. Microsoft Corp.* and [*McRo v. Bandai Namco Games*](#) have provided clarification on patentable software. Calls to weaken the *Alice* decision or Section 101 are misguided and unnecessary as the courts clarify software patentability.

Implement Meaningful Practices at The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for Producing High-Quality Patents: The USPTO must continue to identify and implement changes it outlined in its Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative, and develop new strategies for workforce metrics and examiner oversight that reward quality rather than just productivity. Continued efforts to increase the efficiency of the patent review system are all key components



of fostering a system that produces higher-quality patents. Specifically, this includes bringing more clarity to patents and their prosecution record. For instance, this includes defining patent claim terms in the written record for patent applications so that the public is aware of what the terms mean. Additionally, USPTO should provide clear, consistent guidance on quality standards, consider workforce metrics and indicators that incentivize quality standards, and enhance examiner oversight to monitor and assess whether quality controls are working.

Uphold Vigorous Post-Grant Review Programs: The America Invents Act (AIA) of 2011 created new post-grant review programs, which are both time and cost effective mechanisms to take a second look at claims to determine if they meet the legal standards for patent protection. By offering new programs — including Inter Partes Review (IPR) and the Covered Business Methods (CBM) Program — the AIA provides small inventors and productive businesses with a meaningful tool to ward off the low quality patents that fuel patent troll litigation. These programs include robust protections for patentees, which over time have proven successful in allowing the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) to target only legitimate cases and issue quality opinions. Additionally, the use of the Broadest Reasonable Interpretation standard (BRI) at PTAB reflects the appropriate role of the agency in providing clarity and quality to patent claims, as affirmed by the Supreme Court in *Cuozzo Speed Technologies v. Lee* (2016). Misguided efforts to weaken access to redress options such as IPR at a time when low-quality patents continue to fuel patent trolls will harm our innovation economy and inflame the very problems that policymakers sought to mitigate through modernizations of the U.S. patent system.

Encourage American Innovation with an “IP Box”: Developing a competitive U.S. tax regime for intellectual property (IP) will encourage companies to onshore IP that is currently held outside the US, helping attract more jobs and encourage domestic innovation. An “IP box” or “innovation box” would provide a globally competitive tax rate on profits derived from intellectual property, expanding the corporate tax base.

ON DEMAND OR SHARING ECONOMY

By harnessing the power of the internet and internet-based commercial cloud technology, sharing economy platforms allow individuals to use their free time and resources to earn significant supplementary income under a flexible working arrangement that allows people to earn money how, when, and where they want. Although still in its nascent stage, the sharing economy is projected to account for \$335 billion in global revenue in 2025, up from \$15 billion in 2013.

Offer Consistent, Smart Regulatory Approaches: The rapid rise of this new sector of the economy, however, has been met by piecemeal regulatory approaches at the local and state levels that often feature misguided or overly burdensome rules driving up costs for consumers and workers. By steering clear of burdensome regulations, policymakers at every level can ensure this rapidly growing sector of the economy sees its full potential.

Protect the Flexibility and Economic Opportunities of the Sharing Economy: On demand and sharing economy companies are driving new economic growth and opportunities by providing individuals with unprecedented flexibility and control over the decision of when, and how, they earn income. By attempting to apply the same static workplace regulations of the 20th



century to this new economic model, policymakers could threaten the very entrepreneurial spirit that drives these 21st century earning opportunities.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

The internet is used to solve problems in new and innovative ways every day. Just five years ago, sharing economy platforms emerged that connect buyers with sellers of underutilized assets. These platforms have unleashed competition, created new jobs, and increased consumer choice across the board. These platforms have also raised new public policy questions.

Similarly, newer areas of internet growth, including the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence, and more will, offer new opportunities as well as present new public policy questions. Providing the best ecosystem for these new technologies will require thoughtful approaches to privacy, security, standardization, and other public policies. U.S. internet policies have proven flexible enough to support innovation and growth yet robust enough to meet important consumer protection and other public policy goals. To remain the global leader in innovation, wholesale changes to regulatory models are not needed.