December 10, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

## Re: Preserve Net Neutrality

Dear Chairman Pai,

Here at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena we have an active community that cares greatly for issues of injustice. We live out our baptismal covenant calling us to work for peace and justice for all. Protecting net neutrality is crucial to ensuring that the internet remains a central driver of free expression, education, civic organizing, job creation economic growth and opportunity for everyone. The principles of net neutrality—that all data on the internet should be treated equally, and internet service providers (ISPs) should not discriminate or provide preference to any data, regardless of its source, content, or destination—are the foundation that has made the internet the engine of opportunity it is today. The continuation of net neutrality is essential to ensuring access to social, political, and economic empowerment for all.

In 2015, millions of people made their support for net neutrality clear in comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) supporting the Open Internet Order. The order, which reclassified broadband internet under Title II, enshrined the principles of net neutrality in law, and gave the FCC the authority to enforce it. As a result, broadband providers cannot block users’ access to content, slow down connections to services, or charge for speedier delivery of preferred content. Title II prevents powerful telecom giants like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon from deciding what content is easily accessible online.

Net neutrality supports and protects these basic values:

* **Competition:** Net neutrality helps to ensure that all companies, from small startups to larger companies, have equal access to consumers online. It allows companies to fairly compete for customers within their market and incentivizes the development of new services and tools for consumers.
* **Innovation:** Net neutrality makes it possible for new companies and new technologies to emerge and ensures that broadband providers do not create undue burdens and cost barriers that can harm small businesses and undermine job growth.
* **Free Speech:** Net neutrality ensures that everyone with access to the internet can organize and share their opinions online equally, a key safeguard for our democracy. It ensures that ISPs are not arbiters of speech and expression online by favoring particular forums or providing enhanced access to specific content and audiences.
* **Equality of Access:** Net neutrality ensures that access to websites and content is based on individual preferences. This means content creators are not forced to pay ISPs for content distribution in order to reach consumers. It also means that end users are able to access all the content they desire without restrictions from ISPs. This allows all people in the U.S. to access essential healthcare services, educational resources, and employment opportunities and the freedom to choose from the full spectrum of online content.

The FCC’s plans to end net neutrality will empower broadband service providers — the gatekeepers of the internet — to potentially distort the online marketplace and set up a pay-for-play system. If the FCC votes to gut protections under net neutrality, it will explicitly allow Internet providers to charge extra fees. As a result, a few corporations will have control over what we see and hear, while smaller independent and grassroots entities will be dwarfed.

In order to promote continued economic, social, and political growth and innovation, it is imperative that the internet remain open and accessible to all people in the future. **Rather than dismantling regulations that allow the startup ecosystem to thrive, we urge you to focus instead on policies that would promote a stronger Internet for everyone.**

Sincerely,

We the Undersigned at All Saints Church, Pasadena