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RACHEL ZENZINGER
SENATE DISTRICT 19

December 20, 2017

Dear Attorney General Coffman:

Please add my name to the long list of Colorado residents who would encourage you in your role as Attorney General to help avert an impending telecommunications disaster. I'm talking, of course, about the recent decision by the Federal Communications Commission to end the "net neutrality" that has contributed so much to the economic engines of our state.

More than a dozen other states' attorneys general have collaborated on a lawsuit that would halt the nation's movement toward net neutrality, and I urge you to announce that Colorado will join that effort.

As you know, the elimination of net neutrality will essentially turn the Internet into a toll road, with a few large service providers deciding who gets to participate in the digital evolution, at what price, and how fast. Consequently, only the favored, bigger, higher-paying customers will enjoy the Internet's maximum benefits. In other words, smaller, less affluent individuals and entrepreneurs could find themselves on the outside looking in. We are on the verge of setting up a dichotomy of haves and have-nots. I hate to think how the founders of recent Internet successes such as Uber, Etsy and Airbnb would have fared in their early stages under this new environment imposed by the federal government. Think of the jobs and commerce now generated by those businesses, all of which would have been lost.

Consider also the impact upon our educational efforts in Colorado, as the elimination of net neutrality will magnify the challenges that poor students face, especially in rural areas. If every Colorado student deserves an equal, high-quality education, then they also deserve net neutrality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Zenzinger".

Sen. Rachel Zenzinger