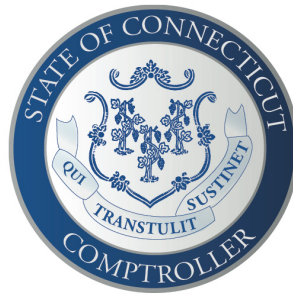KEVIN LEMBO
STATE COMPTROLLER

MARTHA CARLSON
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE *of the* STATE COMPTROLLER
55 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

**Written Testimony
Comptroller Kevin Lembo
March 8, 2018**

Concerning

S.B. 2: AN ACT CONCERNING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND NET NEUTRALITY PRINCIPLES.

Good morning Senator Winfield, Representative Reed, Senator Formica, Representative Ackert, and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

As you know, in December of last year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to overturn protections for a free and open internet. The rule, recently published, will allow telecommunication companies to potentially block content, extort fees from users and shrink economic opportunities for Connecticut businesses and residents. Senate Bill 2 would restore those protections by establishing them as law in our state. I write today to urge its passage.

Similar legislation was signed into state law in Washington this week after receiving overwhelming bipartisan support in the legislature. I am hopeful that such a unified show of strength will be shown here in Connecticut as well.

Net neutrality supports the fundamental principles shared by Connecticut and its citizens: inclusion, fairness and opportunity. A free and open internet is a goal consistent with the shared values of our state.

Concerning

S.B. 335: AN ACT CONCERNING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CONSUMER PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.

This legislation restores critical protections taken from Connecticut consumers by Congress last year. Internet service providers have access to the online behavior of every user, including what sites they visit, which applications they use, where they shop and a near limitless amount of personally sensitive information. We must put strict limitations on how those companies can use that data. No user information should be shared or sold without the explicit consent of the consumer. Private information should be kept private and I urge the Committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.