



JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES AND ENERGY
The State House, Room B-2
April 3, 2018

Testimony Submitted By: Chris Kealey, Deputy Director

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on legislation (H.4151, H.4222, S.2336, S.2389) regarding proposed state actions on net neutrality and internet privacy. As a non-partisan, public policy organization representing diverse industry sectors across Massachusetts, we strongly support a consistent and comprehensive approach to safeguarding privacy and to ensuring open access to the internet for all businesses and consumers.

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable is comprised of CEOs and senior executives from some of the state's largest employers. Roundtable members collectively employ more than 250,000 people in every region of the Commonwealth including leaders in the technology ecosystem. Massachusetts is a global hub of innovation for fast-growing life sciences, health care, robotics, cyber security, financial services, as well as software and other industry sectors powered by the internet.

The Roundtable supports an environment where no consumers or businesses experience blocking, throttling or other interference with open access to the internet. The Commonwealth is fortunate to have the strong and unwavering commitment from industry leaders that provide this open access – including Roundtable members Comcast, Verizon and AT&T – that they will continue to comply with core open internet principles: transparency in marketing practices and no blocking, throttling, or discrimination against internet content or applications.

While we share your concerns about recent federal actions on net neutrality, we urge policy makers not to pursue a patchwork of state regulations that will harm Massachusetts employers and thwart investment in vitally needed internet infrastructure in communities throughout the state. Technology leaders that employ tens of thousands of workers here are investing billions of dollars in capital expenditures to support new internet infrastructure, as well as new technologies enabled by the internet. These are employers you know, with local leadership you can count on to be responsive to the important interests articulated by the legislature.

To that end, we pledge to work with public leaders to advocate for a consistent framework of federal laws and regulations that will create a level playing field for all states and all industry sectors. We urge policy makers not to adopt Massachusetts-only laws that may lead to unintended consequences that harm our innovation ecosystem and economic competitiveness. Rather, we commit to a collaborative, comprehensive approach to adopt uniform federal standards.

The Roundtable appreciates your consideration and leadership on this important policy matter.