



## **WGAW Internet Freedom Position Statement**

### **WGAW Supports a Free and Open Internet**

Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) believes that a free and open Internet is essential to our democracy. As the Internet has become the town square of the 21st century, nondiscriminatory access to diverse and independent news, information and entertainment sources on this platform is necessary for the free exchange of ideas. In addition, the low barriers of entry online and limitless distribution opportunities of an open Internet promise to spur competition across many industries. The WGAW supports the adoption of rules that bar Internet service providers (ISPs) from discriminating in favor of or against lawful content on the Internet based on its source, ownership and destination. Such rules should:

- Prevent ISP interference with legal traffic: Already, some ISPs have demonstrated their willingness unilaterally to block or degrade consumers' access to the content and applications of their choice. The WGAW supports the fundamental principle that ISPs should be prohibited from blocking, throttling, or degrading access to legal content.
- Prohibit traffic prioritization: Allowing ISPs to serve as corporate gatekeepers of Internet content, deciding what viewers can see, will hurt consumers and content creators. The WGAW supports a "nondiscrimination" principle that gives every business or individual the opportunity to compete for the Internet audience.
- Prevent ISPs from creating a fast lane for content: The designation of "specialized services" cannot be used to create a fast lane for companies that can afford to pay, while other content is relegated to a slow lane. Allowing ISPs to charge for enhanced delivery of content on the Internet would provide an unfair advantage to dominant companies and foreclose opportunities for new entrants to the market.
- Require disclosure of network management practices: While ISPs should be allowed to exercise reasonable network management to address traffic congestion and unlawful content, ISPs should be required to disclose their methods in order to prevent abuse. Transparency will ensure that ISPs do not use network management practices unfairly to enhance or degrade access to particular content.
- Apply to both wireline and wireless Internet access services: The FCC should not create a second class of Internet access, where consumers are not guaranteed the right to the lawful content, services and applications of their choice. Therefore, net neutrality rules must apply equally to wireline and wireless Internet.

### **Who We Are**

Writers Guild of America, West is a labor union representing writers of motion pictures, television, radio and Internet programming, including news and documentaries. WGAW members are responsible for most of the entertainment content shown on American television, the Internet and in theaters.