

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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March 12, 2015

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As you know, for over a month, the Committee has been investigating allegations that the White House improperly influenced the development of the draft Open Internet Order that was circulated internally at the Commission on February 5, 2015.

I first wrote to you on February 6, 2015, to request an initial production of documents and to provide notice that the Commission should preserve all records that may be relevant to the Committee's investigation. I subsequently sent two additional letters requesting copies of related preservation orders because the Commission was unwilling to provide them to my staff voluntarily. Additionally, you declined an invitation to testify at a February 23, 2015, hearing prior to a vote by the Commission on the draft Open Internet Order.

In lieu of testifying, I requested that you arrange a briefing by the Chiefs of the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and their relevant staff. The Commission declined to make the relevant staff available for that briefing.

Commission staff can provide information that will help the Committee understand whether the White House improperly influenced the draft Open Internet Order. To advance the Committee's investigation, please make the following FCC employees available for transcribed interviews prior to March 27, 2015:

1. Kristine Fargotstein, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau;
2. Melissa Kinkel, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau;
3. Thomas Parisi, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau; and
4. Carol Simpson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau.

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The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal investigative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. Pursuant to House Rule X, the Committee has authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time.”

To schedule the transcribed interviews requested herein, or if there are any questions regarding this request, please contact Tristan Leavitt of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Chaffetz". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Jason" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Chaffetz".

Jason Chaffetz
Chairman

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member