

## Humboldt Expresses Concern Over US House Vote Against Open Internet Praises Rep. Thompson's Position

EUREKA, CA — Access Humboldt (<http://accesshumboldt.net>) advocates for local voices and for freedom of information and expression. Part of this work includes advocacy for open internet, also known as “net neutrality.”

The Federal Communications Commission adopted an Open Internet rule in December 2010, which immediately met strong opposition from Verizon and MetroPCS who filed an appeal of the rule in Federal Court, DC Circuit. Access Humboldt was an intervenor in the case -Verizon/MetroPCS v FCC, supporting FCC jurisdiction to enforce open internet rules. On April 4, 2011, the DC Circuit dismissed the Verizon/MetroPCS suit in favor of the FCC and Access Humboldt's position.

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives approved a “Resolution of Disapproval” seeking to overturn the FCC's Open Internet rule by legislative action. Free Press (<http://freepress.net>) characterized the Resolution with this statement: “In their desperation to score political points, members of Congress are handing companies like AT&T and Comcast unlimited power to block popular websites and services, and interfere with our ability to connect with others.”

Access Humboldt's Executive Director Sean McLaughlin said, “The FCC is an independent agency with clear authority to protect the public interest and to enforce open internet rules which are essential to ensure that our basic human rights of free expression and freedom of information are secure. We applaud our U.S. Representative Mike Thompson for opposing this misguided legislation which seeks to abort even the slightest FCC oversight to maintain a free and open internet.”

Congressman Mike Thompson's office released his statement: “I oppose this legislation because internet users should have unrestricted access to the Web.”

For more information, contact Sean McLaughlin - e: [sean@accesshumboldt.net](mailto:sean@accesshumboldt.net) or t: 707-616-2381

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Access Humboldt is a non-profit community-based organization created in 2006 to manage local community networks and digital media assets for the County of Humboldt and the Cities of Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale, and Blue Lake, California. Broadband media resources include cable television channels, local fiber and wireless network connections, and a community media center at Eureka High School, 1915 J Street, Eureka, CA 95501. For more information, call (707) 476-1798, email [info@accesshumboldt.net](mailto:info@accesshumboldt.net), or visit <http://accesshumboldt.net>.

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"Local Voices Through Community Media"