

Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
Hearing on
“Preserving an Open Internet for Consumers, Small Businesses, and Free Speech”
February 7, 2019

Ms. Denelle Dixon, Chief Operating Officer, Mozilla

The Honorable Greg Walden (R-OR)

- 1. In your testimony, you indicated that the “clearest pathway today to protect net neutrality today is to restore the protections of the 2015 order through litigation.” If the litigation proves unsuccessful for Mozilla, will you commit to taking this battle out of the courtroom and working with me and my colleagues on the Committee on legislation to enact rules against blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization—all of which can be done without invoking the heavy hand of Title II—and finally put an end to the net neutrality battles, yes or no?**

Response: We are certainly willing to discuss legislative solutions to protect the open internet with you and your colleagues on the Committee.

- 2. How does Mozilla distinguish the payments it receives to deliver and prioritize its search partners’ results in the Firefox browser, such as those from Google but not Verizon-owned Yahoo, from other forms of paid prioritization? How is the former scenario “neutral” in Mozilla’s view, but the latter one is not?**

Response: Users of the Firefox browser have specific and direct control over their search experience. In addition to being freely able to change their default search provider at any point in time, we present the user with a number of search engines in the browser’s address bar, and users can freely access the websites of other search engines. In no way is the speed or performance of searching, through any engine, modified by our product, nor are the results of search queries modified by Firefox in any way.

Paid prioritization arrangements, in contrast, disempower users significantly. Users’ everyday experience of the Web is changed, in ways beyond their ability to choose or control. And there is little or nothing they can do about that, as most users are severely limited in their options for high-speed fixed broadband.