

July 9, 2013

Dear Mr. Danilow,

Thank you for contacting me about the future of the Internet. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this vitally important resource.

The Internet has had a profound impact on the global economy and prosperity, and is a catalyst for individual liberty and free markets. It has accelerated wealth creation and facilitated a more connected world. But the continued development of the Internet is based on the free flow of information, innovation, and ideas - not central government control or regulatory interference.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed repeated efforts by both the U.S. Congress and the regulatory agencies of the Executive Branch to increase the federal government's control over the Internet, using any number of excuses: to police content, to raise tax revenue, to protect intellectual property, to combat terrorism, or to enforce antitrust laws. I am proud to have been a leader in resisting these advances on behalf of the citizens of Kentucky and liberty-minded Americans everywhere.

Throughout my term in the U.S. Senate, I have been a vocal defender of Americans' Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizure, I have strongly and consistently opposed increased federal regulation and taxation, and I am committed to maintaining a free, distributed Internet. I led the fight against extension of the USA PATRIOT Act, which authorizes warrantless searches and roving wiretaps. I opposed the Protect IP Act (PIPA) and the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), which would essentially grant government and some private companies the power to censor the Internet. I also refuse to grant the authority to regulate the Internet to global bureaucrats, either through the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) or to the United Nations. Most recently, I have made clear my opposition to S. 2105, the Cybersecurity Act of 2012 sponsored by Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), a bill which would give the Department of Homeland Security carte-blanche authority to intrude into any private data network that is deemed to be "critical infrastructure" for our national security.

At my swearing-in as a United States Senator, I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, and I take that responsibility very seriously. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; rest assured that as long as I am in office, I will continue to vigorously defend the rights of all Americans and I will fight to restore the limits placed on the federal government by the Constitution.

Again, thank you for contacting my office. It is an honor and a privilege to represent the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the United States Senate. Please continue to inform me of any thoughts you may have on federal legislative issues.

Sincerely,



Rand Paul, MD
United States Senator