

# Three-Page Guide for Executing a Dec 7th Net Neutrality Protest

\*This guide is intended for hosts and attendees of net neutrality protests.\*

## **WE HAVE JUST ONE WEEK TO SAVE NET NEUTRALITY FROM THE FCC!**

The new chairman of the FCC, Ajit Pai, was a top lawyer at Verizon. Now he's calling for a vote to kill net neutrality on December 14th. **But Congress has the power to force him to cancel the vote.** We're protesting at Verizon retail stores and Congressional offices across the U.S. to demand that our lawmakers take action to stop Verizon's puppet FCC from destroying the Internet as we know it.

### **Before you get to the protest location:**

- Print out this document and bring it with you. (Bring extras if you can.) Attendees can also find it online at [VerzionProtests.com](http://VerzionProtests.com)
- Look up where your members of the House and Senate stand on net neutrality: [battleforthenet.com/#scoreboard](http://battleforthenet.com/#scoreboard)
- Read up a bit more about the issue if you'd like to [here](#).
- Invite a bunch of your friends to come with you —text messages work best. Make a plan to meet up at a certain time, and show up 5 minutes early if you can.
- Bring signs about why net neutrality is important. It's especially important to connect this back to Congress. Signs in a format like "Congressmember/Senator [NAME]: Support Net Neutrality/Oppose Pai's plan because...." are great. Some other ideas for signs you can print [here](#).
- If you know your lawmakers are opposed to or are questionable on net neutrality, bring a sign that says something like:

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“Congressmember/Senator [NAME]: “If Pai’s plan passes, we will blame YOU”:

**Here’s an example of how the protest could go:**

- Gather starting at your appointed time, remember that people often show up a little late, so keep everyone in a tight group and keep energy up as more people trickle in. If there are journalists there, approach them and let them know more people will be arriving soon.
- Consider whether somebody in your group is able to livestream the protest on Facebook.
- Wait a bit — prob 5-15 minutes — and let people know that you are waiting until you think you have the majority of people present.
- Begin by making a short statement about what’s going on and why net neutrality is so important. Here’s an example of what you could say:

Net neutrality is the First Amendment of the internet. It protects our free speech in the digital age. Members of Congress must call on Chairman Pai to abandon his current plan to kill net neutrality because it will allow Internet providers to control what we see and do online.

“Title Two” is the legal foundation for net neutrality protections. It prevents companies like Comcast, Verizon, and AT&T from charging us all extra fees to access the websites, apps, and online services we depend on, and manipulating what we see with throttling, blocking, and censorship.

Net neutrality gives more people a voice than ever before. It’s what has made the Internet such a powerful platform for anyone who wasn’t given a voice or fair treatment by mainstream media. Without net neutrality, vulnerable communities would lose access to a critical platform for organizing and storytelling. Net neutrality repeal would be particularly devastating to communities of color, rural communities and low-income communities.

If the FCC’s plan to undermine Title II net neutrality goes through, we will have a corporate-managed internet where it’s harder for us to share and access the sort of content that makes the Internet so powerful. We demand that our lawmakers [NAME THEM IF POSSIBLE] speak out against the FCC’s plan.

- Offer others in the group the chance to speak out about why net neutrality is important to them.

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- Encourage everybody to call Congress while you are gathered. Everybody can call **(202) 759-7766**. Please introduce yourself, be polite, and say and say something like:

I support "Title Two" net neutrality rules and I would like you to publicly oppose the FCC's plan to repeal them. Please contact the FCC Chairman and demand that he abandon his current plan. We don't need legislation, we need you to stop the FCC from gutting the existing rules.

- Take group photos — and tweet them with the hashtag #StoptheFCC at your members of the House and Senate. Send photos immediately to [support@demandprogress.org](mailto:support@demandprogress.org) so we can amplify them online.
- Suggested chants:
  - Senator/Rep XX: What are you going to do? If Ajit Pai's plan goes through, we will blame YOU
  - Pai Pai, You Can't Hide, We Can See Your Verizon Side
  - Republicans, Democrats, we should all agree... everybody must protect net neutrality!
- If press shows up, please talk to them about why net neutrality is important to you, and feel free to lean on the content from the short example speech, above. Getting local press coverage is key to getting your lawmakers' attention.

You should feel free to innovate on this basic program (bring a marching band! have a local celebrity speak!) -- but please try to undertake the activities we outline above, and please try to keep things focused on the need for Congress to step in and block the FCC from issuing its rule.

The whole thing should take around a half hour or so -- but if your protest feels especially energized, definitely feel free to keep it going!

And please always remember: We are protesting Verizon and that corporation's influence over the FCC and Congress. **But we aren't protesting the employees at local Verizon stores or at the Congressional offices where our rallies are taking place** -- please be respectful of them. (They probably even support net neutrality and wish they could join the protests!)

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