HTTP Washington Update

Hispanic Technology & Telecommunications Partnership

The National Latino Voice on Technology & Telecommunications

Monday July 21, 2014

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HTTP Editorial: Latinos Lose When Latinos Attack Latinos

NEWS

HTTP joins MMTC and 35 national minority and civil rights organizations in filing on the Open Internet: favors use of section 706 authority; opposes Title II reclassification

HTTP partnered with the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (MMTC) and 35 other national minority organizations to file comments in the FCC's proceeding to protect and promote the open Internet. The group urged the Commission to focus its broadband policies on promoting adoption, engagement, and informed broadband use by minorities, and to exercise its Section 706 authority to protect all consumers' rights to an open Internet. In the filing, the organizations opposed Title II reclassification of the Internet under the 1934 Telecommunications Act, arguing that it would stifle broadband adoption among vulnerable populations, and would limit investment and innovation that have benefitted its constituents. Six HTTP member organizations also joined independently in the filing: Dialogue on Diversity; LISTA; MANA: A National Latina Organization; the National Puerto Rican Coalition; SER Jobs for Progress; and The Latino Coalition. (more below)

FCC approves changes to E-Rate: implications for Latinos

By a party-line 3-2 vote, the FCC approved changes to the E-rate, the program that provides funding for technology to schools and libraries, to move the program away from traditional broadband to promote wireless connectivity. This would mean that schools and libraries that serve predominantly Latino students and communities could have been negatively affected by reducing the focus on traditional broadband on which they depend. The measure, however, includes a provision to safeguard schools and libraries from diminished access to traditional broadband. **Read more…**

What is E-Rate? E-Rate News

HTTP On The Move

HTTP Participates in U.S. Conference of Mayors: Mayors Take A Common Sense Approach To Title II

HTTP joined with many others at the recent U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting in Dallas to strongly support a Resolution in favor of an Open Internet through a balanced regulation approach rather than the "nuclear" option of reclassifying the Internet under Title II of the 1934 Telecom Act favored by a minority of experts which would have imposed the rotary dial era regulations of Title II on the Internet. HTTP is pleased that the U.S. Conference of Mayors agreed with our position." **Read more....**

HTTP starts dialogue with FCC commissioners

HTTP started a constructive dialogue with all commissioners from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The discussions' have focused on ways in which a strong working relationship can be formed between the FCC and HTTP to ensure that the Latino voice is heard on issues of technology and telecommunications. HTTP gathered information on the commissioners' position on issues such as E-Rate, open Internet,

spectrum actions and the IP transition. HTTP will continue to work with all FCC commissioners, White House, House and Senate members, state and local representatives and others to ensure that Latinos have an integral voice in the national dialogue on technology and telecommunications.

HTTP collaborates with its member organizations to reach Latino communities across the U.S. Adds two new member organizations.
Over the past two months, HTTP staff has had individual meetings with eight HTTP member organization CEOs to inform them on issues that HTTP is addressing, especially its position on Open Internet and to strategize on ways to effectively reach out to our community and better advocate for telecommunications policies that promote broadband adoption. HTTP highlights the work of its members on its website. Members are welcomed to place their own blog on HTTP's website.

In the past several months, HTTP welcomed two new member organizations to the coalition -The Latino Coalition and the Hispanic Heritage Foundation- brining the total to 18 national Latino organizations.

Must Read…

Latinos will lose If the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopts Title II as a means to regulate the Internet
 HTTP favors regulation that will accelerate adoption of broadband in Latino communities and promotes investment in broadband and innovation. **Read more…**

U.S. vs. Europe: broadband deployment, quality, investment and adoption
A comprehensive study demonstrates that Europe is falling behind the U.S. on broadband speed, quality, investment and adoption rates and HTTP reminds regulators that a "less regulation" approach is more effective than utility-style regulation. **Read more…**

Important Debates

Is E-Rate helping all communities?
Silicon Valley has a diversity problem
The U.S. should not follow Europe's wrong path
FCC reclassification and the expiration of the Internet moratorium

HTTP at Events

HTTP at events, conferences and industry gatherings

HTTP's Senior Advisor, Martin Chavez, moderating <u>USHCC's</u> **panel on Spectrum**

HTTP's Executive Director, Rosa Mendoza, speaking at CHLI's Congressional Briefing

HTTP's Senior Advisor speaking at MMTC's Open Internet Briefing

HTTP Upcoming Events

HTTP's Quarterly Forum
FCC Chairman Wheeler has been invited to HTTP's inaugural luncheon to have a dialogue with the presidents of each of HTTP's member organizations, to help the FCC to better understand the issues that impact the Latino community.

HTTP Member Briefing
HTTP is organizing an HTTP member briefing on July 29, 2014 on the FCC's Proposed Open Internet Order and its implications for broadband adoption in the Latino community and for continued telecommunications and technology innovation and investment.

Telecommunications Act
In early August, HTTP will be releasing a White Paper with its recommendations for the reauthorization of the 19096 Telecommunications Act. Martin Chavez, HTTP Senior Advisor, has been leading this important effort.

HTTP Editorial

LATINOS LOSE WHEN LATINOS ATTACK LATINOS
By Martin Chavez, HTTP Senior Advisor
Read the full blog

Starting out as a volunteer with César Chávez and Dolores Huerta in California during my college days, spending 17 years in elected office, working countless initiatives to better our communities and now serving on the Board of Directors of MALDEF, I was at first

saddened when a sister Latino organization charged that Latinos and Latino organizations who disagreed with them on whether the FCC should apply Title II (otherwise known as "heavy" government regulation) to the internet or utilize a "light "regulatory touch via Section 706 were ". . . at best misinformed and at worst intentionally distorting facts." Caramba!

From my perspective, we've always been at our best as a community when we stick together and that when we disagree, we do it respectfully and without questioning personal integrity. As Latinos, we know we have differences of opinion, but we also know that there is much more that unites us than divides us.

We saw the exact same phenomenon from another group aligned with this very organization   Like the first, they support treating the internet as a utility and want it regulated under Title II. Congresswoman Loretta Sánchez and other elected Latinos had the audacity to say that they prefer the "light" regulatory touch of Section 706 to the 1960's types of regulations. What did the organization do? They directly attacked their personal integrity saying: "Big corporations like AT&T and Comcast are poised to rob the Internet of its incredible potential" and that "The truth is that it would only disadvantage our communities while lining the pockets of the telecommunication giants that have donated tens of thousands of dollars to these representatives' campaign funds." Caramba otra vez!

I know it is a controversial issue and we have a right to disagree. But why must Latinos who disagree with each other be subjected to attacks on their personal integrity?

While I was initially saddened by these attacks against the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute and others for committing the egregious crime of disagreeing, I also know that they were properly raised by their parents to treat others with respect. And I believe that upon reflection they will recognize that their angry outbursts and lapses of judgment should not define who they are. We all make mistakes. And though we disagree on this particular issue, our disagreement should remain respectful. Who knows, these organizations might even change their position and join with the overwhelming majority of Latinos who demand an Open and Unfettered Internet as one of our great opportunities forward!

Latinos and all Americans win when our debates are vigorous, merit-based and respectful. Only Latinos lose when Latinos attack Latinos.

About HTTP

HTTP is the leading national Latino think tank and advocacy organization on Internet, telecommunications and technology policy issues. It is a nonpartisan coalition of national Latino organizations working to ensure that the full array of technological and telecommunications advancements are available to all Latinos in the United States. Learn more about HTTP.

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