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MADIGAN CONDEMNS FCC ROLLBACK OF NET NEUTRALITY PROTECTIONS

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today condemned Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai's plan to roll back existing net neutrality rules that prohibit internet service providers (ISPs) from discriminating among consumers and content providers. Madigan argues the rollback will result in consumers losing internet freedom to visit and obtain content from any site of their choice without interference.

The FCC's *Restoring Internet Freedom Order*, publicly released today, is expected to eliminate prohibitions that allow people to have sole discretion over their internet usage. The order will allow internet service providers to interfere with customers' use of the internet by blocking or slowing down access to content. If approved, the order will allow broadband providers to favor their own content over third-party sites by slowing down access. In addition, service providers could charge content providers for priority treatment or access to an internet "fast lane."

"Asking consumers to trust that their internet service provider will faithfully provide service without interference is going too far," Madigan said. "If the FCC votes to scrap net neutrality, it will fundamentally change the internet we all know. It may no longer hold true that every user has undisrupted access to any site at any time."

In July, Madigan led a coalition of 14 attorneys general in submitting comments to the FCC in opposition to the proposed rollback of critical net neutrality protections. Madigan argued that the FCC must ensure open access to the internet and the continued equal access to all content providers, which can only be upheld through the principles of an open internet or net neutrality.

The FCC is expected to vote on rolling back net neutrality rules at its Dec. 14 monthly meeting.

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