



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
Members, House Economic Matters Committee
The Honorable Kirill Reznik

FROM: Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
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DATE: February 24, 2021

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1064 – *Commercial Law – Maryland Net Neutrality Act of 2021*

The Maryland Tech Council is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **opposition** for House Bill 1064.

House Bill 1064 attempts to regulate broadband internet access service provided to Maryland customers. However, every major ISP has pledged its support for net neutrality and data privacy. In fact, ISP's are required to fully disclose their net neutrality and data privacy practices to customers. State-by-state regulation, such as what is proposed in House Bill 1064, will result in confusing and conflicting rules, regulations, and definitions that will harm consumers and businesses. For example, if a consumer moves from state to state, it is unclear which jurisdiction has authority over their internet usage. House Bill 1064 will discourage investment in broadband, new technology, and services that consumers and businesses want and need, which would otherwise lead to the creation of new Maryland jobs. It will also discourage ISPs from building out broadband in unserved and rural areas of the state.

State-by-state regulation of net neutrality and data privacy is impractical and preempted by federal law. Any attempt at state legislation will likely embroil the state in costly litigation. There should be comprehensive, reasonable federal regulation that protects consumer's personal information and encourages continued investment in the internet, broadband, new technologies, and services. As such, MTC urges the House Economic Matters Committee to give House Bill 1064 an unfavorable report.

For more information call:

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