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**Heller Statement on Tomorrow’s FCC Vote**

**(Washington, DC) –** United States Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) issued the following statement in anticipation of tomorrow’s Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) vote “Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet”:

“Years from now, I do not believe history will look back fondly at the definitive moment of Mr. Wheeler’s chairmanship of the FCC. Under his leadership, the Commission will end over 20 years of bipartisan consensus. The days of leaving the Internet free of government regulation are gone.

“The rules, hidden from public view until after passage, are borne not from demonstrated market failures but, rather, from perceived concerns originally raised by special interest organizations and candidates, like then-Senator Obama in 2008, fundraising off the net neutrality issue.

“Now, all Americans will be subject to an Internet rule structure modeled over eighty years ago to address a monopoly in the telephone marketplace. Instead of looking to the future for ways to ensure robust competition in the Internet marketplace, this Chairman prefers to look back to a time when President Franklin Roosevelt occupied the White House.

“Furthermore, the process to reach this result deserves scrutiny. When Mr. Wheeler was confirmed to lead the FCC, I did not expect we would agree on every issue. I did, however, expect him to preserve the integrity of the regulatory process. By allowing the President to so blatantly influence the FCC’s decision, Mr. Wheeler has compromised the Congressional charter establishing the FCC as an independent agency.

“It does not have to be this way. Chairman Thune has proposed legislation addressing the very concerns cited as the reasons the FCC must reclassify the Internet as a Title II common carrier. I am hopeful my colleagues across the aisle will join in legislating a solution to this issue as opposed to neglecting their responsibilities to the FCC.  Under the Wheeler chairmanship, the FCC is simply not able to properly handle this issue and legislators in the Senate and House of Representatives must step in.”

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