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House Calendar No. 143

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 127

[Report No. 112–564]

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding actions to preserve and advance the multistakeholder governance model under which the Internet has thrived.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 30, 2012

Mrs. BONO MACK (for herself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WALDEN, and Ms. ESHOO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JUNE 29, 2012

Additional sponsors: Mr. BASS of New Hampshire, Mr. LATTA, Mr. TERRY, Mr. STEARNS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. OLSON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. POMPEO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HARPER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LANCE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. FARR, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. POLIS, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MACK, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina

JUNE 29, 2012

Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding actions to preserve and advance the multistakeholder governance model under which the Internet has thrived.

Whereas given the importance of the Internet to the global economy, it is essential that the Internet remain stable, secure, and free from government control;

Whereas the world deserves the access to knowledge, services, commerce, and communication, the accompanying benefits to economic development, education, and health care, and the informed discussion that is the bedrock of democratic self-government that the Internet provides;

Whereas the structure of Internet governance has profound implications for competition and trade, democratization, free expression, and access to information;

Whereas countries have obligations to protect human rights, which are advanced by online activity as well as offline activity;

Whereas the ability to innovate, develop technical capacity, grasp economic opportunities, and promote freedom of expression online is best realized in cooperation with all stakeholders;

Whereas proposals have been put forward for consideration at the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications that would fundamentally alter the governance and operation of the Internet;

Whereas the proposals, in international bodies such as the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and the International Telecommunication Union, would

justify under international law increased government control over the Internet and would reject the current multistakeholder model that has enabled the Internet to flourish and under which the private sector, civil society, academia, and individual users play an important role in charting its direction;

Whereas the proposals would diminish the freedom of expression on the Internet in favor of government control over content, contrary to international law;

Whereas the position of the United States Government has been and is to advocate for the flow of information free from government control; and

Whereas this and past Administrations have made a strong commitment to the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and the promotion of the global benefits of the Internet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, in consultation with the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and United States Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, should continue working to implement the position of the United States on Internet governance that clearly articulates the consistent and unequivocal policy of the United States to promote a global Internet free from government control and preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet today.

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