



MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION

S.3477 (Parker) / A.3479 (Fahy)

**AN ACT to amend the public service law and the state finance law,
in relation to instituting internet service neutrality**

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,900 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 160,000 area residents, opposes S.3477/A.3479, which would give the Public Service Commission (PSC) the authority to monitor the practices of internet service providers and certify their compliance with net neutrality principles. The bill directs New York State, its authorities, and municipalities to not engage in procurement with internet service providers (ISPs) whose compliance with net-neutrality principles is not certified by the PSC.

This proposal is in direct conflict with the Restoring Internet Freedom Order (Order) which is pending with the Federal Communications Commission. This Order is designed to preempt state and local measures from creating a patchwork of inconsistent and competing policies at the federal, state and local levels. Allowing such disparity would create an unmanageable regulatory environment for ISPs and unnecessary confusion for consumers.

ISPs have urged Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to provide commonly agreed upon net neutrality protections. The Capital Region Chamber supports this effort.

The internet has allowed innovators to thrive, entrepreneurs to grow our economy and create tremendous job opportunities. This has occurred through limited, reasonable and sound government regulations. This proposal would take New York State in completely the wrong direction and harm our state's business climate.

For these stated reasons, the Capital Region Chamber opposes this legislation.

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