

## **DRN is Committed to Keeping Customers Informed Regarding Net Neutrality**

**Ellendale, ND, December 20, 2017**—You’ve probably heard and seen the term “net neutrality” in news reports over the past few months but may not be sure exactly what it means. In the interest of keeping customers informed about Internet issues, DRN offers this quick overview.

Net neutrality means that Internet service providers (ISPs), such as DRN, treat all Internet traffic equally. ISPs are the ones responsible for "the last mile" of Internet access, which goes from the big Internet backbone servers to your computer. Under the 2015 net neutrality Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruling, ISPs must treat small websites the same as online giants like Netflix.

At its core, net neutrality ensures that all traffic is treated equally on the internet. Since 2015, the Internet has been regulated as a utility, instead of an information service. This gives the FCC the authority to ensure that providers don't create fast and slow lanes for internet traffic.

For a while now, large ISPs have been asking the FCC for permission to treat high-traffic websites differently, permitting them to pay extra to get their own dedicated bandwidth space. This would give these companies a “fast lane” to consumers and give ISPs additional money to upgrade their systems to handle the traffic.

On December 14, 2017, the FCC adopted the “Restoring the Internet Freedom” order. This order reversed the net neutrality ruling from 2015. By restoring the Internet Freedom Act, consumer protections are strengthened by placing the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) as the only watchdog over the entire Internet. The FTC is the top agency in charge of protecting consumers.

Even as DRN supports the FCC taking steps to roll back the burdensome rules adopted a few years ago, they have also continued to advocate for retaining some reasonable and focused rules of the road to promote interconnection between operators and the seamless transmission of data consistent with consumer expectations across the Internet.

Small companies, like DRN, are committed to ensuring customers receive what they are expecting when they sign up for broadband services, and to protecting the privacy of consumers using those services.

DRN, the local ISP, has always and will continue to provide customers open and free access to the Internet. This means they will not block web traffic, throttle the connection or sell priority service to one website over another. DRN agrees strongly with net neutrality principles that operators should not block data, and that consumers are entitled to clear disclosures regarding their terms of service.

You can learn more about net neutrality at [www.fcc.gov/guides/restoring-internet-freedom](http://www.fcc.gov/guides/restoring-internet-freedom).