

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1580

To affirm the policy of the United States regarding Internet governance.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2013

Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HALL, Mr. LANCE, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LONG, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TERRY, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. PITTS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To affirm the policy of the United States regarding Internet governance.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Given the importance of the Internet to the  
6 global economy, it is essential that the Internet re-

1 main stable, secure, and free from government con-  
2 trol.

3 (2) The world deserves the access to knowledge,  
4 services, commerce, and communication, the accom-  
5 panying benefits to economic development, edu-  
6 cation, and health care, and the informed discussion  
7 that is the bedrock of democratic self-government  
8 that the Internet provides.

9 (3) The structure of Internet governance has  
10 profound implications for competition and trade, de-  
11 mocratization, free expression, and access to infor-  
12 mation.

13 (4) Countries have obligations to protect human  
14 rights, whether exercised online or offline.

15 (5) The ability to innovate, develop technical  
16 capacity, grasp economic opportunities, and promote  
17 freedom of expression online is best realized in co-  
18 operation with all stakeholders.

19 (6) Proposals have been, and will likely con-  
20 tinue to be, put forward at international regulatory  
21 bodies that would fundamentally alter the govern-  
22 ance and operation of the Internet.

23 (7) The proposals would attempt to justify in-  
24 creased government control over the Internet and  
25 could undermine the current multistakeholder model

1 that has enabled the Internet to flourish and under  
2 which the private sector, civil society, academia, and  
3 individual users play an important role in charting  
4 its direction.

5 (8) The proposals would diminish the freedom  
6 of expression on the Internet in favor of government  
7 control over content.

8 (9) The position of the United States Govern-  
9 ment has been and is to advocate for the flow of in-  
10 formation free from government control.

11 (10) This Administration and past Administra-  
12 tions have made a strong commitment to the multi-  
13 stakeholder model of Internet governance and the  
14 promotion of the global benefits of the Internet.

15 **SEC. 2. POLICY REGARDING INTERNET GOVERNANCE.**

16 It is the policy of the United States to preserve and  
17 advance the successful multistakeholder model that gov-  
18 erns the Internet.

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