

House Calendar No. 21

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1580

[Report No. 113-50]

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

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

MAY 3, 2013

Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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-
7 main stable, secure, and free from government con-
8 trol.

9 (2) The world deserves the access to knowledge,
10 services, commerce, and communication, the accom-
11 panying benefits to economic development, edu-
12 cation, and health care, and the informed discussion
13 that is the bedrock of democratic self-government
14 that the Internet provides.

15 (3) The structure of Internet governance has
16 profound implications for competition and trade, de-
17 mocratization, free expression, and access to infor-
18 mation.

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

21 (5) The ability to innovate, develop technical
22 capacity, grasp economic opportunities, and promote
23 freedom of expression online is best realized in co-
24 operation with all stakeholders.

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

5 (7) The proposals would attempt to justify in-
6 creased government control over the Internet and
7 could undermine the current multistakeholder model
8 that has enabled the Internet to flourish and under
9 which the private sector, civil society, academia, and
10 individual users play an important role in charting
11 its direction.

12 (8) The proposals would diminish the freedom
13 of expression on the Internet in favor of government
14 control over content.

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

18 (10) This Administration and past Administra-
19 tions have made a strong commitment to the multi-
20 stakeholder model of Internet governance and the
21 promotion of the global benefits of the Internet.

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

23 It is the policy of the United States to preserve and
24 advance the successful multistakeholder model that gov-
25 erns the Internet.

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