

For Immediate Release

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Media Access Project Issues Statement on Supreme Court Order Granting Certiorari in *Brand X v. FCC*

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Decision “will - quite literally - determine the future of the Internet”

Media Access Project President and CEO issued the following statement today:

On behalf of MAP’s client, the Center for Digital Democracy, and as advocates for the First Amendment, we’re disappointed that the Supreme Court has decided to hear the government’s appeal of the *Brand X* internet open access case.

This is much more than an argument about economics. It is an important test of the First Amendment in the age of the Internet.

The outcome of this case will - quite literally - determine the future of the Internet as we know it. The right of citizens to send and receive any content over the Internet depends on rules which allow them to take full advantage of the open architecture of the Internet. If the Supreme Court rules against Internet open access, cable companies will be able to block content at will for political or financial reasons, and deny the public the ability to choose among competing Internet providers.

While we are optimistic that the Court will ultimately affirm the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, today’s order will delay broadband deployment by continuing the uncertainty that has deterred many investors.

Media Access Project is a public interest telecommunications law firm which represents civil rights, civil liberties, consumer and other public interest organizations on First Amendment issues before the FCC and the Courts. In the *Brand X* proceeding, MAP has represented the Center for Digital Democracy (CDD) in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in successfully challenging the FCC’s failure to adopt Internet “open access.” CDD is a Respondent in the Supreme Court. CDD is a non-profit organization which seeks to preserve the openness and diversity of the Internet in the broadband era.

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