

STATEMENT : Q2 2019

# NET NEUTRALITY

BUSINESS LEADERS STATEMENT IN  
SUPPORT OF A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

 **BUSINESSFORWARD**

## BUSINESS LEADERS TO CONGRESS:

# PASS BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION FOR NET NEUTRALITY AND CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY

Democrats and Republicans are offering competing proposals for net neutrality and consumer privacy, and neither side has the votes to win on its own. Business leaders across the country are calling on Congress to pass bipartisan solutions to these pressing issues.

### WHY BROADBAND MATTERS



#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Nearly one-third of economic growth in 2016 was generated by the digital economy.

#### ECONOMIC EQUALITY

Broadband also levels the playing field between fast-growing coastal innovation hubs and struggling smaller cities and rural areas in between.

### WHAT NET NEUTRALITY MEANS

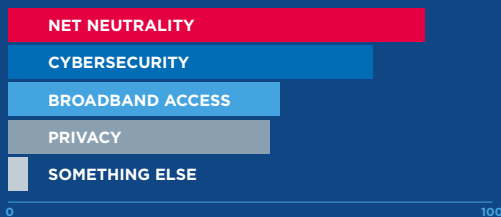
Net neutrality ensures an open and vital internet by preventing network operators from favoring internet traffic from some sites over others, censoring viewpoints, or boosting their own offerings. Rules should be clear, enforceable, and permanent.

#### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

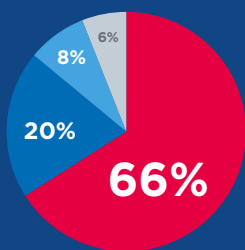
Without net neutrality, companies will invest less in new, data-intensive applications. We'll see less innovation in distance learning, telemedicine, and media streaming.

### WHY SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS CARE

Our network is more concerned about net neutrality than cyber security, data privacy, and broadband access, because they believe a neutral internet is critical to their ability to reach customers, open new markets, and compete with larger companies.



By more than a 3 to 1 margin, our leaders support a bipartisan approach over utility-style regulation.



- Congress should pass bipartisan legislation that prevents broadband providers from blocking, throttling, or unfairly prioritizing internet traffic.
- Congress should pass laws that ensure broadband providers are heavily regulated like public utilities.
- I don't think we need regulation or laws protecting net neutrality.
- Congress should leave the net neutrality issue to the FCC.

### TODAY'S GRIDLOCK

Four successive FCC chairs, serving two Presidents, issued net neutrality principles, policies or rules. But federal courts or subsequent FCC orders struck down each of them, largely because the FCC cannot act without clear authority from Congress. *Only Congress can create net neutrality rights.*

#### NET NEUTRALITY SUPPORTERS TEND TO CALL FOR "GOING BACK TO OBAMA'S RULES" - BUT WHICH RULES?



BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

##### OBAMA'S 2010 "PLAN A"

Julius Genachowski, President Obama's first FCC Chair, issued formal regulations against blocking, throttling, and other discrimination, but they were overturned because he lacked authority from Congress.



FAR-LEFT SUPPORT

##### OBAMA'S 2015 "PLAN B"

Tom Wheeler, Obama's second FCC chair, proposed a workaround that reclassified broadband as a Title II "telecommunications service" - a distinction that gave the FCC greater authority to regulate. But reclassifying broadband opens the door for the FCC to set broadband prices or demand broadband companies share their transmission lines with competitors, which undermines their incentives to invest more to expand their networks.



##### NO NET NEUTRALITY RULES

Republicans have come around to the basic framework of Obama's "Plan A", but they strongly oppose the utility rule approach. Ajit Pai, Donald Trump's FCC Chair, overturned Obama's "Plan B" - leaving consumers and small businesses with no net neutrality rules.

## TO U.S. CONGRESS:

We write to encourage you to adopt a bipartisan approach to protecting net neutrality and data privacy. We understand these reforms are contentious in Congress, but they enjoy broad public support across the country.

Net neutrality is critical to keeping the internet open, free, and competitive, and it is particularly important to small businesses and start-ups. Business leaders in our network are more concerned about net neutrality than cyber security, data privacy, or broadband access – and two thirds of them support a bipartisan solution.

The FCC cannot effectively enforce net neutrality without statutory authority from Congress, but Congress has debated for 15 years without passing a bill. Today, a majority favors net neutrality, but they are split over which of two Obama-era proposals to support. His administration's first proposal ("Plan A" in 2010) treated broadband as "information service." His second proposal ("Plan B," in 2015) was a workaround. It treated broadband as a utility, which Republicans oppose. If net neutrality supporters in Congress cannot get behind Obama's "Plan A," we face at least two more years without net neutrality protections in place.

Meaningful privacy reforms face similar gridlock, but progress is being made. The middle ground in Congress now favors consumer rights like access, correction, and deletion, which were deal breakers a few years ago. It's about time. Nine in 10 business leaders in our network support a comprehensive, national privacy standard.

A patchwork of 50 state laws won't work for the Internet. We support a national approach, provided the protections are strong and enforceable.

Businesses rely on the internet every day. We can't afford to leave these issues unaddressed. We ask you to work across party lines to adopt these much-needed protections for net neutrality and consumer privacy.

## Over 1,000 business leaders signed this statement, including:

Aaeron Robb, Baltimore, MD  
Aaron Worley, Beachwood, OH  
Abigail Howes, Berkley, MA  
Abigail Podrecca, East Jewett, NY  
Abra Shapiro, Barrington, IL  
Adib-Hassan Omar, Frisco, TX  
Adria Fredericks, Pittsburgh, PA  
Aileen Adragna, Lake Orion, MI  
Akili Taylor, Orlando, FL  
Akin Caldiran, Lansing, MI  
Al Miralles, Ringwood, NJ  
Alan Baum, West Bloomfield, MI  
Alan Trenary, Wichita, KS  
Alden Thayer, Claryville, NY  
Alexander Whittle, Madison, TN  
Alexis Fry, McHenry, IL  
Alfonso Gonzales, Burlingame, CA  
Alfredo Ramirez, Washington, DC  
Ali Zimmer, Los Fresnos, TX  
Alice Stehle, Butler, PA  
Alice Marquardt, Primghar, IA  
Alice Miller, South Lyon, MI  
Allan Richardson, Jacksonville, FL  
Allan Goldstein, Westwood, NJ  
Almiram Montgomery, Virginia Beach, VA  
Alvin Pudwill, Las Animas, CO  
Alwen Bauer, Palos Verdes Estates, CA  
Amal Youngblood, Las Vegas, NV  
Amanda Gonzalez, Miami, FL  
Amelia Jones, Santa Monica, CA  
Amy Harlib, New York, NY  
Andrea Snyder, Hickory, NC  
Andrea Preciado, Saint Paul, MN  
Angelia Clarke, Mount Rainier, MD  
Anissa Gage, Oil City, PA  
Anita Kiefer, Wapakoneta, OH  
Ann Noonan, Milwaukee, WI

## SIGNATORIES

Ann Moffat, Verona, WI  
Annalisa Peace, San Antonio, TX  
Anne Henry, Bradenton, FL  
Anne Hudson, Brighton, CO  
Anne M., Valdosta, GA  
Anne Marie, Silver Spring, MD  
Annick Richardson, Dayton, OH  
Annie Bien, Brooklyn, NY  
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Anthony Vecchiarelli, Vernon Rockville, CT  
Arlisa Johnson, Opa Locka, FL  
Armond Muscat, Carpentersville, IL  
Arshad Ameen, Memphis, TN  
Arthur Lapite, Seattle, WA  
Audra Resor, Hollister, CA  
Audrey Minick, Milan, MI  
Barbara Waymire, Alexander, AR  
Barbara Johnson, Brooklyn, NY  
Barbara Harris, Danville, PA  
Barbara Calloni, Florissant, MO  
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Belva Presley, Danville, VA  
Benny Kaunang, Redlands, CA  
Beth Jane Freeman, Wantagh, NY  
Betty Anderson, Bowling Green, KY  
Betty Palmer, Zanesville, OH  
Beverly Davis, Long Beach, MS  
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Bijender Tanwar, Coppell, TX  
Bill Fricke, Jacksonville, NC  
Bill Uildrias, Muskegon, MI  
Bill Shrode, Parkersburg, IL  
Bill Brady, West Chicago, IL

## WHY BROADBAND MATTERS

### 1. Economic growth.

The digital economy accounted for nearly a third of all U.S. economic growth in 2016; over the past decade, the digital sector has grown at almost four times the pace of the economy as a whole.

### 2. Economic equity.

Broadband access is also critical to broadening economic opportunity and equity within the U.S. A 2013 report by Ericsson found that gaining access to broadband correlates with a \$2,100 per year boost to household income, while an earlier Brookings study concluded that each 1 percent increase in a state's broadband penetration increases employment by up to 0.3 percent per year.

### 3. Technology of the future.

Sound policy also lays the foundation for deploying the next generation of technologies in time to meet the exponential growth in bandwidth that tomorrow's applications (such as connected homes and autonomous vehicles) may demand.

“

Congress should compromise on a deal to continue to focus on building effective innovation. Investment in innovation is the key to our future. We need to work on a win-win solution philosophy.

”

- DELANO WILSON  
CEO,  
M.A.C.S. LLC.,  
SHREVEPORT, LA

## SIGNATORIES

Blanca Luz Ross, Fullerton, CA  
Bob Petzinger, Burlington, IA  
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Bob Leppo, Pismo Beach, CA  
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Carolyn Massey, Quincy, IL  
Carolyn Lenz, Tucson, AZ  
Carrie Thomas, Huntington Beach, CA

### SCALE OF INVESTMENT

Since 1996, broadband providers have invested **\$1.6 trillion** to create our current network infrastructure. That averages to about \$73 billion per year.

By comparison, the U.S. government invests \$64 billion per year in America's highways, mass transit, and rail infrastructure, combined.

“

**A net neutral and cyber secure broadband infrastructure is required for the U.S. to compete and succeed economically, politically and militarily. Innovation in those areas is not just desirable, it is necessary to protect our national interests.**

”

- CLIFF BRUSH  
CONTRACTOR  
LAKE OSWEGO, OR

“

**It's very important that legislation is not designed to overwhelm businesses with overregulation, or governmental interventions that prevent potential growth.**

”

- JOSEPH WIECZOREK  
FORMER PRESIDENT,  
RECYCLING AGENT  
ROSEVILLE, MI

## SIGNATORIES

Carroll Dartez, Houston, TX  
Catherine Lang-Cline, Columbus, OH  
Catherine von Phul, Jupiter, FL  
Catherine Lynne Kearney, Kenner, LA  
Cecily Morris, Delray Beach, FL  
Celeste Winterberger, Raleigh, NC  
Celia O'Kelley, Tuscaloosa, AL  
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Colleen Wolff, Spirit Lake, IA  
Colleen Neumann, Wyandotte, MI

### BALANCING POWER BETWEEN NETWORK AND EDGE

In order to encourage innovation across the internet, we must encourage investment by both the companies that build the network and the companies that use it.

If we regulate broadband providers too much (or unwisely), we discourage them from making the massive infrastructure investments those edge companies' products and services will require.

If we allow broadband providers to block or throttle access, we discourage edge companies from developing new applications and services.

“

**Leaders of both parties need to compromise around middle-ground solutions to strike a balance between effective rules and encouraging innovation and investment.**

”

- L.B. KING  
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT,  
KINGSBORO & ASSOCIATES  
CLAIRTON, PA

“

**Any swing of the pendulum that is too broad will hurt innovation.**

”

- ASTRID KOWLESSAR  
DIRECTOR,  
VEZTA & CO.  
MIAMI, FL

## SIGNATORIES

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Crystal Mourad, Chico, CA  
Curt Sayers, Raymond, NH  
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Cynthia Steussy, Seattle, WA  
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Dan Morneau, Largo, FL  
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David Merrill, Union, NH  
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Dawn James, White Lake, MI  
Dawne Santopietro, Macedon, NY

**Providers should not be allowed to block or throttle consumers' access to lawful sites or services, nor discriminate against anyone on the edge of the network by prioritizing or discriminating against their traffic.**

“

**Bandwidth throttling to suit the needs of the provider is wrong. If we pay for a service it should be provided. If regulations are needed to insure this then so be it.**

”

- DARRYL KISTNER  
OWNER,  
BEAVER APPRAISAL  
BEAVER, PA

“

**Pay for play is never good for consumers. Throttling that is left up to the telecoms or their big clients will end up hurting the little guy.**

”

- RICHARD STEEL  
CEO,  
PARSEC VENTURES  
ALAMO, CA

## SIGNATORIES

Dean Borgeson, Crosslake, MN  
Dean Thompson, Irving, TX  
Debbie Farmer, Columbus, GA  
Debbie Lehwalder, Grants Pass, OR  
Deborah Boomhower, Albany, NY  
Deborrah Parris, Brooklyn, NY  
Debra Moore, Clio, MI  
Debra White, Hobbs, NM  
Debrra Goolsby, Quakertown, PA  
Deenna Kimmer, Sabula, IA  
Deirdre Franklin, Allentown, PA  
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Delano Wilson, Shreveport, LA  
Delila Owens, Bakersfield, CA  
Denise Brennan, Auburn Hills, MI  
Denise Marlowe, Inver Grove Heights, MN  
Denise Fisher, Kalamazoo, MI  
Denise Thomas, Saint Paul, MN  
Denise Tratulatis, Stratford, CT  
Dennis Gauthier, Hilton Head Island, SC  
Dennis Rogers, Hubbardston, MA  
Dennis Braun, Huntington Station, NY  
Dennis Hough, Syracuse, NY  
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Diane Hanas, Conneaut, OH  
Diane Gibson, Pittsburgh, PA  
Diane Arnal, Saint George, UT  
Diane Brown, Saint Paul, MN  
Diane Shaughnessy, Tacoma, WA  
Dianora Niccolini, New York, NY  
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Dolores Adams, Brighton, CO  
Dominic Orlando, Lisle, IL  
Dominic Percopo, West Haven, CT  
Don Barth, Ashland, VA  
Don Thompson, Cambridge, MA  
Don Wleklinski, Terre Haute, IN  
Donal O'Hare, Madison, WI

### COST OF DELAY FOR SMALL BUSINESS

The digital revolution has changed the American small business landscape over the past generation. These gains and opportunities could be endangered if broadband providers began charging extra tolls for businesses to reach their customers online or discriminating against some online services in favor of others willing to pay for the privilege.

“

**As a small business owner, I depend on ready and fast access to the internet for everything. Slow speed slows my ability to maximize my time and efforts to reach sustainable success.**

”

- ROXI AUGUSTINE,  
OWNER,  
MOBILEMOWSE,  
MANTECA, CA

“

**My business is a blog that depends on an open and equal internet so I can reach more people without fear of unequal treatment online.**

”

- JERRY BIERENS  
CEO,  
JBA SERVICES LLC,  
MILFORD, MI



## SIGNATORIES

Donald DeWalt, La Crosse, WI  
Donald Smith, Palm Bay, FL  
Donald Solomon, Providence, RI  
Donna Olsen, Grand Forks, ND  
Donna Smith, Havertown, PA  
Donna Limper, Naperville, IL  
Donna Pope, Tampa, FL  
Donna Phillips, Winchester, VA  
Donovan Johnson, Minneapolis, MN  
Dori Cole, Wheaton, IL  
Doris Midili, Hackettstown, NJ  
Dorothy Strotkamp, Ann Arbor, MI  
Dorothy Dunlap, Pittsburgh, PA  
Doug Fulton, Greenville, SC  
Douglas Best, Lima, NY  
Douglas Henderson, Wiscasset, ME  
Dwight Taylor, Newburgh, IN  
Dyann Berndt, Berwyn, IL  
E. Richard Basil, Virginia Beach, VA  
Earl Stevens, Severna Park, MD  
Ed Oquendo, Norwich, CT  
Edquna Thompson, Cullman, AL  
Elaine Harp, Bellwood, IL  
Elaine Jurumbo, New York, NY  
Eli Hegeman, New York, NY  
Elinor Liberman, San Francisco, CA  
Elizabeth Sawyer-Cunningham, Altadena, CA  
Elizabeth Carter, Eustis, FL  
Elizabeth Freer, Scottsdale, AZ  
Elizabeth Clapp, Vallejo, CA  
Ellen Homsey, Hockessin, DE  
Ellen Segal, Toluca Lake, CA  
Emanuel Fragozo, Brooklyn, NY  
Emmitt Wilson, Rochester, NY  
Eric Haskins, Hilo, HI  
Eric Banks, Ukiah, CA  
Erik LaRue, Burlington, WA  
Erin Morita, Carmel, CA  
Ermanno de Gregorio, Ashburn, VA  
Ernest Boyd, Sunnyvale, CA  
Ernie Martinez, Roy, UT  
Esther Biagini, Brookhaven, PA

“

We need a bipartisan bill that will bring net neutrality back immediately because the internet should not be vulnerable.

”

- GLENDA STATEN  
OWNER,  
POSITIVITY FOREVER  
STATESVILLE, NC

“

The internet was intended for free and equal communication. We need to maintain the original intent and provide access for all.

”

- JANE FRITZ  
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
WEST ISLIP, NY

“

We need clear federal laws guaranteeing open use of the internet for all, superseding state laws.

”

- CHRISTOPHER STIMSON  
FOUNDER,  
MIRALOMA MUSIC  
AKRON, OH

“

Party affiliation shouldn't be an issue on this topic.

”

- JOHN KWIATKOWSKI  
OWNER,  
KWIATKOWSKI FARMS  
POWELL, WY

## SIGNATORIES

Esther Fernandez, Clifton, NJ  
Esther Garvett, Miami, FL  
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Eugenia Patterson, Poulsbo, WA  
Eva Neubecker, Overland Park, KS  
Evan Fulmer, Merrimack, NH  
Evelyn Fraser, Washington, DC  
Faith Franck, Las Vegas, NV  
Faith Wollner, Tucker, GA  
Fatima Al-Hayani, Toledo, OH  
Feather Jones, Sedona, AZ  
Felicia Bruce, Fort Pierce, FL  
Ferold Torchenot, Columbia, MD  
Frances Flores, Tucson, AZ  
Francoise Streeter, Dayton, OH  
Frank Wilsey, Baltimore, MD  
Frank Sennett, Lewistown, MT  
Frank Materia, Reading, PA  
Frann Spiess, Whitmore Lake, MI  
Freddie Sykes, Tennessee Ridge, TN  
Fredrick Macarthur, Amboy, WA  
Freida Cotton, Las Cruces, NM  
Gabriela Garcia, Gardena, CA  
Gael Irvine, Palmer, AK  
Gail Petrovich, Endicott, NY  
Gail Roberts, Tecate, CA  
Gaile Carr, Mount Shasta, CA  
Gale Sloan, Manalapan, NJ  
Gary Mazzotti, Cantrall, IL  
Gary Peters, Villas, NJ  
Gary Ewald, Weedsport, NY  
Gavin Chen, San Francisco, CA  
Gayla Wampler, Overland Park, KS  
Gayle Martin, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Gayle Young, Saint Petersburg, FL  
Gayle Jensen, San Pedro, CA  
Geneva Kropper, Washington, DC  
Genevieve Patterson, Charlotte, NC  
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George Larsen, Virginia Beach, VA  
Georgena Askew, El Paso, TX

Gerald Fisher, Dearborn Heights, MI  
Geraldine Clark, Raleigh, NC  
Geraldine Mccarthy, Wexford, PA  
Gerri Detweiler, Sarasota, FL  
Gerry Bundle, Cassopolis, MI  
Gertrude Robinson, McDonough, GA  
Gertrude Carter, San Antonio, TX  
Gilbert Montez, Albuquerque, NM  
Gillie McIntosh, Fort Washington, MD  
Glen Pople, Waterford, WI  
Glenda Staten, Statesville, NC  
Glenn Steinbach, Colfax, WI  
Gloria Faltstrom, Kaneohe, HI  
Gloria Roth, Long Beach, CA  
Gloria Berger, San Diego, CA  
Gordon Knowles, Marietta, GA  
Gordon Rondeau, Marietta, GA  
Grayson Breen, Glen Ellyn, IL  
Greg Hood, Bremerton, WA  
Greg Scott, Wesley Chapel, FL  
Gregory Ryhal, Bloomington, IN  
Gretchen Zeiger-May, Shallotte, NC  
Gretchen Getsinger, Torrington, CT  
Guadalupe Yanez, El Paso, TX  
Hank Ramirez, San Diego, CA  
Harmon Greenblatt, Northbrook, IL  
Harry Williams, Redondo Beach, CA  
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Haskell Rosenthal, Houston, TX  
Haydee Ayala, Orlando, FL  
Hazel Poolos, Richfield, NC  
Heidi Lockwood, Hudson, NY  
Heidi Pickman, San Francisco, CA  
Helen Jackson, Port Deposit, MD  
Helga Friess, Kansas City, MO  
Henri Goettel, Independence, MO  
Herman Greene, Gordonville, TX  
Herman Whiterabbit, Madison, WI  
Hilary Noonan, Kansas City, MO  
Hollis Milark, Saratoga Springs, NY  
Howard Stein, Parrish, FL  
Hugh Gibbons, Saint Joseph, MI

## SIGNATORIES

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Inga Lyons, Greensboro, NC  
Ingar Forsmark, Barrington, IL  
Iris Zhan, Clarksville, MD  
Isabel Del Castillo, Sacramento, CA  
Isabella Lawing, Fargo, ND  
J. Leslie, Christiana, PA  
J.J. T. Lat, Lahaina, HI  
Jacqueline Scully-Clark, Plainfield, NJ  
James Davis, Berea, KY  
James McConkey, Dekalb, IL  
James Kawamura, Fontana, CA  
James Katzen, Las Vegas, NV  
James Lowe, Manor, TX  
James Caldwell, Mountain View, CA  
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James Adams, Saint Petersburg, FL  
James Hickey, Springtown, TX  
James Rodman, Valparaiso, IN  
Jamie Thomas, Middleburg, FL  
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Jan Adrian, Lewisville, TX  
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Jane Church, Chapel Hill, NC  
Jane Fritz, West Islip, NY  
Jane Fritz, West Islip, NY  
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Janet Shadrouti, Graniteville, VT  
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Janet Maker, Los Angeles, CA  
Janet Czubaj, Rochester, MI  
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Janet Campeas, Verona, NJ  
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Jim Knight, Kent, WA  
Jim Feuerstein, San Antonio, TX  
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