

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission**

<b>In the Matter of</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Restoring Internet Freedom</b>	)	<b>WC Docket No. 17-108</b>
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**Single, LLC**

July 10, 2017

Tommy Stalknect  
CEO  
SINGLE, LLC  
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37216

## **Executive Summary**

- **Tommy Stalknecht**
- **Music Distribution for Shopify Ecommerce Stores**
- **Nashville, TN**
- **5 Employees**

We support a truly open Internet, and we rely on it for our business. The FCC's proposal would allow the creation of a two-tiered Internet, stifling our ability to compete with big, established incumbents. Allowing big cable and wireless companies to pick winners and losers in the market will not only harm our business, but the ability of any new entrants to enter the market to compete fairly with incumbents (including the cable and wireless companies themselves).

We urge the FCC to sustain the existing, strong net neutrality rules, based on Title II of the Communications Act. The FCC should maintain bright line rules against blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization on both fixed and mobile connections, as well as maintain ongoing oversight of other types of discrimination.

### **I. Who We Are and What We Do**

We are building a music platform that will truly be the first of its kind. Never before has someone built a fully-transparent music distribution system where the fans pay the artists directly and they have full access to all data surrounding these purchases. For too long technology companies have dictated to the music industry the value of their work and withheld information about an artist's own fans. It's time to put an end to these practices and create a truly democratic music platform with a level playing field for all. By integrating with artists existing stores we give them full control over how and when to release their music. In addition to costing less than half what major platforms charge, we give artists the freedom to choose their art's worth. Without net neutrality, music startups that want to change the uneven landscape that is music technology stand no chance against the entrenched majors. We are musicians ourselves and we are making the platform that musicians deserve in the heart of Music City.

## **II. The FCC Should Sustain Its Existing Strong Net Neutrality Rules and The Existing Legal Framework Under Title II**

As a distributor of online content and media, net neutrality is essential to my ability to reach customers and compete. We would not have existed without it. The big cable and wireless companies also are content providers, and I'm concerned that they will favor their own services over ours. They might also create new tolls that only big companies would be able to afford. We've already seen this happen in some cases, such as cable companies imposing fees on services like Netflix, and wireless companies exempting their own services from data caps, while charging competitors. We would be unable to compete with Apple Music, Spotify, or any larger platform's ability to pay these fees and would be relegated to obscurity from the start.

The proposed approach under Title I would interfere with innovation, competition, and consumer choice online. Previous court rulings have said that an approach under Title I would preclude certain bright-line rules. Instead, the FCC is proposing a set of vague legal standards that would allow discrimination. Small companies like ours do not have the legal resources to address instances of discrimination, absent the existing bright line rules and authority for ongoing oversight. By the time the lengthy process of case-by-case review of anti-competitive behavior is complete, a startup like ours would simply not exist.

The FCC's existing framework works well. It should sustain its current approach under Title II; ban blocking, throttling, or paid prioritization of Internet traffic; and continue ongoing oversight of other discriminatory conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Thomas Paul Stalknecht

Tommy Stalknecht  
CEO  
Single, LLC