

Comment on net neutrality rules (Proceeding 17-108)

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I wish to voice my opposition to dropping, amending, or relaxing rules regarding neutrality of internet access.

Internet access has become indispensable to life in an industrialized society, much as access to electric power had become indispensable by the middle of the 20th century. It is chiefly for this reason that internet access should be treated as a public utility and administered for the common good.

Doing business today requires internet presence. Allowing internet service providers to charge additional fees for premium or priority access carries the risk of stifling innovation and entrepreneurial ventures.

The internet of today has replaced the commons of colonial times as a place where people meet to discuss and air their opinions. It is a dangerous thing to the American tradition of free speech to allow internet service providers (private entities that operate to make a profit) to decide whose speech is favored, whose is less favored, and whose is simply not permitted. I do not want my ISP deciding, for whatever reason, that I cannot have access to Slate.com but it would allow me to reach National Review (or vice-versa).

A vibrant society requires an open internet. Please continue to regard the internet as a public utility and mandate neutrality for all comers.

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