To Whom It May Concern,

I am deeply concerned and disappointed that the current leadership of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering policies which would end “net neutrality” and allow internet service providers (ISPs) to choose which websites their customers can access. In the absence of independent public access to the internet, it is essential that ISPs remain federally obligated to provide open access to the internet at a price which is affordable to the general public. Internet access has become a necessity in developed countries, and much like electricity, sewage, and other utilities, regulation of this industry by the FCC must be sufficient to prevent abuse of this necessity for profit. Allowing ISPs to throttle or block access to websites of their choosing defeats the internet’s critical purpose of ensuring a free and competitive online market and of allowing our population access to the information necessary to cast informed votes. That the FCC would even consider this strongly suggests that these functions are not things desirable to the current administration.

If the leadership of the FCC is interested in appearing to be anything more than a shill for the small number of overgrown ISPs controlling our entire country’s access to the internet, they should reconsider this ill-conceived attack on net neutrality immediately. This should not be a partisan issue, and it should be common sense. There is no defensible argument for allowing ISPs to dictate the terms of American access to the internet, and it is doubtless that the very individuals who are promoting this will regret the loss of an open, competitive online market. To pretend that ISPs will not take advantage of the relaxed net neutrality policy is to ignore history, as this was already attempted by Verizon and AT&T as recently as December of last year.

Do the right thing. Do what the FCC was founded to do, and prevent these large communications companies from taking advantage of their customers.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Snyder