I am writing to express my support of ending faux “net neutrality” and treating these rules as the competition-killing government overreach that they actually are. I am a gamer and a web programmer, both demographics that have been blindly in favor of this because of any combination of ignorance of the Constitution and the proper role of government or what constitutes a “human right.” As one political commentator noted years ago when this was first proposed, there is a difference between what is a right (water, food, etc.) and what is “awesome,” (the internet.)

The internet is a service, provided at a cost, by private companies, and the government does not have the right to force them to render the service in a way that makes them lose money or compromises user privacy. Netflix is now over 1/3 of the traffic on the internet but we expect the ISPs, not Netflix, to bear the burden of that. Compare this to the toll roads in many states, (including my home state of Illinois,) where the more you use the road, the more it costs you. To some extent, consumers still understand this when it comes to our cell phone data plans. “Net Neutrality” risks making illegal some of the features of my carrier’s data plans, like allowing certain music- or video-streaming apps to stream without counting against my data allotment. What do all those apps have in common? You can’t stream anything pirated with them, so it also allows the carrier to incentivize streaming music in conformity with DMCA, but “net neutrality” makes encouraging law-abiding behavior with this incentive illegal.

Moving on to concerns for user privacy, the *only* way “net neutrality” can be enforced is if the government monitors user traffic. That is just a technological fact and too many promoting “net neutrality” are sophisticated enough to know that but refuse to say so because they know support for such regulation would collapse instantly. I did not trust the Obama administration to monitor my traffic, and now there are plenty who do not trust the Trump administration. However, if my traffic to Slate or The Blaze are to be *forcibly* treated equally, someone has to be watching that. For my reading of a text document on GameFAQs to be *forcibly* treated the same as bit torrenting *Rogue One*, someone has to be watching that. How am I to know that never, ever, in the decades I hopefully have left on this Earth, that information will never be used against me? How do I know the information will never be compromised? There is simply no way the government can enforce “equality of traffic” without compromising user privacy. This is a chance for the FCC to correct the unconstitutional overreaches of the Obama administration that put at risk the private user traffic of American citizens.

The market can and will eventually solve the “problems,” (if the problems even exist outside of the minds of the deluded,) that “net neutrality” seeks to “correct.” Who would have thought, in 2001 when I was still in high school, that I could have a portable computer in my back pocket that was more powerful than what put man on the moon? If the government had gotten involved back then, we’d all still be using old Nokia bar phones. Everywhere government touches, innovation and creativity die. The internet literally loses what made it what it is, what made it “awesome,” when the government gets its mittens on it. PLEASE end these horrible regulations and let the internet continue to be the shining example of free market experimentation that it has been for decades!