

Paragraph 82 asks for input on whether throttling should be regulated. In the past ISPs have throttled content based on their own determination of what was lawful or permissible, and had to be forced to stop in the courts. I am concerned that ISPs will determine access to sites based on their partners, sister companies, or those that can afford to “pay to play”. The vast majority of today's technology leaders started with a couple visionaries in a garage with an idea. Relegating the next Steve Jobs, Larry Page, or Larry Ellison to the back of the line due to the small size and minimal available capital of most startups will hinder American job growth and technological dominance.

I live in a small rural community. Verizon is the only service provider in my area. They have failed to invest in infrastructure and as a result several homes in my area do not have any access to internet at all. In the four years between 2012 and 2016, Verizon has increased their net earnings from \$875 million to \$13.13 billion, yet they fail to provide internet access to every new house in my development while they maintain a monopoly in our region keeping us from purchasing service elsewhere. I have an infant daughter who will rely on open and unfettered access to learn and interact with the world around her. Verizon has a well documented history of removing features from cell phones, blocking access to competing ecosystems, and requiring customers to purchase accessories from Verizon at inflated costs. Without a free and open internet, how will Verizon control my daughters education? Which one of my neighbors could be the next great innovator, however their growth is being stifled?

The truth is that the internet is now a fully mature medium that is out competing telecom giants like Verizon in the marketplace. Old media such as newspapers and local evening news are quickly becoming irrelevant. Cable and satellite companies are losing subscribers to streaming services. Land lines will soon go the way of the telegraph. These companies lack the vision and talent to become the next Apple, Google, Twitter, Oracle, etc and need to engage in crony capitalism to ensure their survival. Simply put, they can't adapt to the changing world and are trying to hinder the growth of those who can.

Net neutrality also allows equal access to the entire internet at once. If Telecom companies have their way, they will start selling internet access packages similar to cable companies. If you want access to certain “premium” sites, you'll need to pay more. If you want access to streaming sites, you'll need to purchase an even more expensive package.

I am strongly opposed to anything that works against a free and open internet.