I have had the privilege of watching the Internet grow from a small network of interconnected systems to the complex online network we have today. I was using BBS systems in the late-80s and early-90s and have watched the Internet grow over the past three decades.

Through that time, we have seen tremendous innovation and consumer benefits. Not only the rise of online retailers such as Amazon, CDW, etcc. and entertainment providers such as Netflix and Hulu, but other content, including a fundamental change in voice communication. Long-distance charges and expense phone systems are now a thing of the past, thanks primarily to an open Internet.

I have worked for several small businesses, including an ISP, and our business and many others thrived on an open internet.

The proposed rules to end Title II authority of the internet would very likely stifle the innovation, creativity, and the entrepreneurial spirit that the Internet has engendered thus far. These rules are counter to the FCCs mandate and goals.

The FCC should be promoting fairness and openness, but allowing a small number of large companies to dictate how traffic is prioritized on their network give too much power to those that provide access. I understand the arguments that companies such as Netflix are hurting the bottom line of ISPs like cable and telephone companies, but the answer cannot be squelching down competing content providers or trying to extort money out of innovative companies for providing a service to consumers of the ISP. ISPs should and must figure out how to monetize their infrastructure ang be profitable while maintaining a free and open Internet. They still have many tools at their disposable, including content, speeds, bundled discounts, even bandwidth caps (which is preferable for consumers than removing net neutrality rules).

I implore the FCC to follow its consumer-focused mandate and maintain the Title II regulations put in place in 2015.

Thank you for your consideration.