The FCC's Open Internet Rules (net neutrality rules) are extremely important to me; I urge that they be protected. I don't want ISPs to have the power to block websites, slow them down, give some sites an advantage over others, or split the Internet into "fast lanes" for companies that pay and "slow lanes" for the rest. The natural state of the internet and its purpose of information sharing would be completely corrupted if rules are revoked to allow giant ISPs to censor what we see and do online.

Censorship by ISPs is a serious problem, not a “feature” to be exploited. Comcast has throttled Netflix, AT&T blocked FaceTime, Time Warner Cable throttled the popular game League of Legends, and Verizon admitted it will introduce fast lanes for sites that pay and slow lanes for everyone else if the FCC changes the rules. This would hurt consumers and businesses large and small. If some companies are allowed to pay ISPs to have their content load faster, startups and small businesses that can't afford to pay those fees will lose the ability to compete on a level playing field. The open marketplace that has enabled millions of small businesses in America to succeed will be downgraded -- just to further enrich a few giant telecom corporations famous for sky-high prices and abysmal customer service. The very notion of changing the internet to a “pay to play” platform is corrupt and violates the underlying principle of free information sharing, which was the impetus for its creation.

Courts have made clear that if the FCC ends Title II classification, the FCC must let ISPs offer "fast lanes" to websites for a fee; FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has made clear that he intends to do exactly that. In essence, internet providers will be able to impose a private tax on every sector of the American economy. Moreover, under Chairman Pai's plan, ISPs will be able to make it more difficult to access political content that they don't like. It would enable ISPs to charge fees for website delivery, which would make it harder for blogs, nonprofits, artists, and others who can't afford the fees to have their voices heard; it would effectively censor and chill non-mainstream political discourse on the web.

I'm sending this to the FCC's open proceeding, but I worry that Chairman Pai, a former Verizon lawyer, has made his plans and will ignore me and millions of other Americans. Therefore, I'm also sending this to members of Congress who represent me. Please publicly support the FCC's existing net neutrality rules based on Title II, and denounce Chairman Pai's plans. Do whatever you can to dissuade him. Thank you!

J. Woody Dvorak