

To Whom It May Concern:

I write today urging the FCC to reconsider the Restoring Internet Freedom Act and recommending that the network neutrality rules stemming from Title II of the Communications Act of 1934. I believe, and hope to convince you, that a free and open internet is of crucial importance to the future of the country, both from an economic and social perspective. First, from my own personal experience, the ability to quickly and consistently have access to data intensive tools such as video chat, video playback, and large office documents have allowed me to flourish both as a student at the University of Georgia and as a practicing attorney in the state of Tennessee. The quality of the internet and my unfettered access to it has been one of the greatest boons of my academic and professional career. I am concerned and hope that future citizens who will be following in my footsteps will have the same advantage and opportunity going forward.

I am further concerned about the high potential for a curbing of free speech a repeal of net neutrality would have on the most important network in human history. The internet has penetrated the daily lives of United States citizens in a way that no other technological innovation has. The most crucial of these adoptions is in public discourse. The average American does not speak at a town hall to gain support or engage in debate. The public square is now online. As such, it should be protected at all costs.

In addition, I fear that if network neutrality rules were repealed, the average citizen would face a confusing market of differing services and options. When the average consumer buys internet from a large provider, it is not to receive an email address, cloud storage or other services directly from that ISP. It is to gain unrestricted, reliable access to the internet at fast speeds. I use email, cloud storage, web-hosting, professional, and entertainment services from many differing entities that are not my ISP of choice. I fear that in repealing these rules you will at once harm competition, while shifting consumer understanding of what we are buying from these large companies. In addition, please keep in mind that I have very little choice in which ISP to choose from. Where I live, there is only one ISP that provides service. My choice of patronage is already limited in how I gain access to the internet, net neutrality rules have a strong potential to also make it so that the quality of the internet I have access to depends on a company I have no choice in using.

In conclusion, it is of crucial importance that the FCC protect net neutrality rules and continue to retain strong authority over broadband ISPs. They should take a role that ensures that consumers are protected from, among other things, invasions of privacy, fraudulent billing and price gouging, and the limiting of speech or service based on content.

Sincerely,

John R. Graham, TN