20 July 2017

Dear Commissioner Pai:

I have been self-employed since 1995 and I depend on fast, reliable broadband to do my job. Internet access is a requirement to live and work in 21st century America. Most jobs require online job applications, and many jobs (like mine) require continuing online access.

Internet access should be a public service, an unfettered option like basic landline phone service used to be, because it is as necessary as electricity and water to participate in and contribute to US society today.

Saying the “free market” will regulate Internet access fairly is absurd; what chance does Mom&Pop’s ISP have to compete against Comcast and its armies of attorneys and lobbyists?

The FCC’s oversight should include keeping Internet access universal (including encouraging infrastructure building in rural areas and other poorly served areas), low cost, and the same speed for all comers. What you pay to hop on the ‘Net should allow you the fastest speed possible, not the speed dependent on what you pay.

Internet access is not a luxury; it is a necessity.

The goal should be something akin to Google Fiber nationwide, everywhere, ensuring that consumers are protected from, among other things, invasions of their privacy, fraudulent billing and price gouging by their broadband providers. If the FCC is left without authority over broadband ISPs, Comcast could double its prices overnight, and there wouldn’t be anything the FCC or any other agency could do about it.

Sincerely yours,

Julia Kinsey Welch, CCS, CPHQ

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