Wireless is in no way a substitute for a wired connection. The technology is simply not there yet. The added latency and signal reliability problems make certain online activities such as voice and video conferencing, and online gaming an extremely frustrating affair. Wireless companies admit to this. Just recently AT&T blocked Skype from iPhones, and restricted Facetime to WIFI connections only. While they have since lifted those restrictions due to pressure from users, the experience Is still inferior. Furthermore, no wireless provider currently offers a truly unlimited plan. Verizon’s “Unlimited” $80 plan throttles users after 22 GB. T-Mobile starts throttling at 26 GB. AT&T also throttles after 22 GB. While Comcast currently imposes a 1 TB data cap, which itself is a catastrophic loss for users and shouldn’t be allowed, most users can manage staying under that limit under current conditions. The situation will of course become worse as 4K televisions become popular and content becomes increasingly more available. An hour of 1080p Netflix uses 4-5GB of data. An hour of Ultra HD (4k) Netflix uses north of 30GB. A single episode of House Of Cards will use up a user’s entire data allowance on wireless, assuming the wireless can deliver a steady 25 Mbps stream as recommended by Netflix.

This brings me to the second point that defining broadband as 10/1 is a huge step back as well. Going back to the 4k Netflix example, they suggest 25 Mbps. If an ISP is unable to deliver on this, the current definition of 25 Mbps, they will block out users from receiving 4K content, which artificially limits viewership of these programs and hurts the content creators and service providers. Forgetting the future and 4K just now, 1080p content requires at least a 5 Mbps connection. While that can be interpreted as well below the proposed 10 Mbps definition, one must not forget that most households are not a single user. A family of 4 would not be able to simultaneously stream a TV show or 2, browse social media, and do a Facetime or Skype call at the same time. In the famous words of President Trump, “This is a disaster.”.