

Received & Inspected

JUL 17 2017

In the Matter of:

Comments of:

Proceeding Name: 17-108

FCC Mailroom

Proceeding ID: 301759

Thomas A. McKee

Proceeding Description: Restoring Internet Freedom

104 Water Leaf Lane

Cary, NC 27518-9728

Title II Regulation Needed: The Internet is like the highway system, as essential to today's commerce as the roads are. Everyone should be able to utilize the Internet with assurance that their use will be treated the same as any other, unhampered by any control by the Internet Service Providers. Given the quasi-monopoly that the ISP's enjoy Title II regulation is essential in assuring an unhampered status.

Carterphone History: In 1968 the Commission wisely revoked the telephone companies' vigorously-enforced ability to control what devices could be attached to the telephone lines. This action, generally known as the Carterphone decision, was the, "free and open," telecommunications decision of its time. It fueled new innovation and competition resulting in a proliferation of telephones, telephone devices and telephone equipment suppliers that continues to this day. Neither did this 1968 decision slow the telephone companies' own innovating, for despite Carterphone, the industry developed and implemented both Pulse-Tone Dialing and the Cellular Telephone System.

Learning from History: Today, given all the good that followed the Carterphone decision, it's unlikely that the Commission would now consider reversing it. However, the current Commission's decision to pursue reversing the 2015 Title II regulation decision is just as ill considered as would be reversing Carterphone. There are yet-to-be-dreamed-of, Internet-dependent, services in our future that will require innovators being certain that the ISPs cannot block them, charge them special fees, or otherwise unduly profit from their innovations. Title II regulation fosters this innovation.

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ISP Innovation: The Commission's Chairman erroneously believes that Title II regulation of the ISPs hampers innovation in Internet service. However, the ISP industry is bragging about the service improvements it has made since Title II went into effect in 2015 so this argument is specious at best. Technology marches on, just as it did after Carterphone, and, even under Title II, the ISPs must keep up with it or lose customers and profits. See:

<https://www.ncta.com/platform/broadband-internet/americas-internet-speeds-continue-to-soar/>

The Gift: By reversing Title II the Government will essentially give the Internet to the ISPs. Not a dollar will flow into the Treasury as it does with the spectrum auctions. What a gift!

Thomas A. McKee

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July 12, 2017

919-851-2542

mckeetajc@earthlink.net

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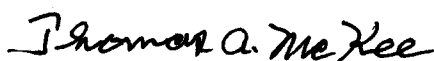
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