The internet is essential to my daily life, both personal and professional. I read the news through online portals. I watch most videos online. I unwind playing e-sports. In between, my work demands high throughput, low latency database connections to my company’s servers and myriad business partners’ systems. And for all of that I need a dumb-pipe, a simple, unbiased connection to all those different platforms.

What I rely on is a telecommunications service. Just like a phone line, all I want is a connection and for my data to pass over it without alteration, modification, or restraint.

I simply need a wire to connect me. I do not use my ISP’s offered email address or any of their other services. In fact, the vast majority of the data I transfer is done over a VPN to IP addresses that I explicitly specify. My ISP is used solely to transmit my data to points I specify. They do not provide me with information services and hence they should remain classified as a telecommunications service.

For all intents and purposes my ISP is a utility. They merely provide a connection and much as I expect my water, electricity, and phone to be consistently provided without regard for how I use them, I expect my internet connection to be consistent and indiscriminate regardless of how I use it.

Furthermore, I do not have a suitable alternative to my ISP. If they are reclassified as an information service they will have the legal authority and financial incentives to degrade my connection and I will have no alternative but to live within their constraints. They can choose which sites I can visit, what data I can transmit, and which if any products that compete with their own holdings I am allowed to use. For example: I do not use their cable service, preferring online alternatives, under these proposed changes they can zero-rate their own service while slowing, capping, or even outright blocking the competitors I use.

The lack of credible alternatives to my ISP makes their continued classification as a telecommunications service essential. Reclassifying them so that they can discriminate and otherwise degrade my connection represents a manifest financial harm to me. To that end I object in the strongest terms to this proposed reclassification and should it proceed I will contribute to litigation against it.