To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to address the FCCs intention to remove broadband from Title 2 classification. I am a computer systems engineer working for the DOD, so these matters affect me both personally and professionally. I understand how the internet functions, and in practice it is very much similar to the power and water systems, both of which are considered utilities.   
  
The largest difference is the attempt to “meter” the connections in the same way, since hardware upgrades bring with them higher speeds essentially for free at the end of the life cycle for any given piece of equipment, the attempt to “meter” and gouge customers is a blatant money grab that can only succeed if the FCC allows it to. When I use more water, more must be treated, when I use more power – some resource is heated to create that energy.  
  
When more data is used, no finite resource is spent. The bandwidth is either used, or goes to waste. It is true that with multiple users, you may need to enforce some type of quality of service to split bandwidth in times of need, but the idea that you should gouge customers for streaming Netflix at 4k is absurd. ISPs are implementing monthly caps on users, and if this practice had been widespread in the 90s and early 2000s – then services like Netflix and Amazon Video and Spotify couldn’t exist, along with digital downloads of games which are sometimes over 100GB. In a world with an arbitrary 1TB monthly cap, that is 1/10th your usage in a single game, and with 4k streaming and then 8k streaming the problem is only going to get worse if Title 2 classification is removed. Many Canadians can’t watch Netflix for this reason, with super low 15GB data caps on their DSL connections.  
  
The reason is that then ISPs – who control your access to all online services – will get to zero-rate their own services. They will be able to de-prioritize traffic from competitors, such as Netflix – which has already happened to me personally. I had to use a VPN with Comcast to stream 4k Netflix, even though a VPN SHOULD slow me down – it got me around Comcast’s nonsense. Comcast and other ISPs constantly have some of the worst customer service ratings in the nation, and the FCC is intending to give them more power and less oversight to further abuse their position as sole provider in many areas of America, or duopolies as it is in other cases.   
  
People at home don’t realize it is their ISP which is degrading the quality of a competitor’s service, and they just assume the service is low quality and will likely switch to using the “free” services from the ISP itself – which will be granted the full speeds. Then once the competition dies, they will have succeeded in cornering the markets, starving the competition, and capturing regulatory agencies through lobbying with their ill gotten money – and raising prices.

My ISP is a pipe just like water and power, nothing more, I need the FCC to make sure it stays that way. When I pay for 1gig service, I should get 1g service from any site I choose, with no exceptions and no meddling from the ISP except for very light touch network management to preserve the operation of the network as a whole.

There was a time when the internet was a luxury, a time when it was experimental and not immersed into the daily lives of American citizens – but that time has long passed. Many services are available to citizens online only, and their access to government sites and other products and services. This must be protected, and FCC must keep Title 2.

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