



August 30, 2017

Dear FCC,

As a small business owner of an aerial videography and aviation consulting LLC, I rely on the internet for my livelihood and success of my small business. It is unthinkable to me, as a generally a “small government” thinker, that the FCC would alter the current net neutrality protections under Title II. Please reject arguments that prioritize the business interests of an ISP over my right to a level playing field on the net. I simply could not compete with the large nationally known services providing similar services if they were allowed to pay for faster carriage.

Rescinding current regulations will not, in spite of the drum beat from the large providers, increase options for small business and consumers. Your own April 2017 report demonstrates the fallaciousness of such an assertion – it shows that 58% of Americans have access to either zero or one broadband ISP, and 87% have access to just two. I live in Northern Virginia so you’d think I have a plethora of choices. I don’t! I have exactly ONE choice for a high speed (satellite service doesn’t provide true high speed internet) ISP provider – Cox.

There is a place for federal government to insure national infrastructure best serves all citizens. The Constitution calls out for national defense as one of those infrastructure assets. Others not around when the founding fathers wrote the Constitution are the interstate highway system and the national airspace system. I easily add the internet to those two infrastructure assets that must be protected and overseen by the federal government for the benefit of all Americans.

The FCC should reject Chairman Ajit Pai’s proposal to give the government-subsidized telecom giants like Verizon, AT&T, and Comcast the legal cover to throttle whatever they please, stripping small business owners and consumers of the necessary access and privacy safeguards we worked for and just recently won. I’m afraid of a “pay-to-play” Internet where ISPs can charge more for certain websites because users will have less options and a less diverse internet.

Thankfully, the current net neutrality rules mean that ISP monopolies can’t slow or block consumers’ access to certain web services or create Internet “fast lanes” by charging websites and online services money to reach customers faster. That’s exactly the right balance to ensure the Internet remains a level playing field that benefits small businesses and consumers as well as entrenched Internet companies. Chairman Pai’s proposed repeal of the rules would transform Internet providers into Internet gatekeepers with an effective veto right on expression and innovation. That’s contrary to the basic precepts on which the Internet was built.

I urge you to keep Title II net neutrality in place, and safeguard Internet users like me.

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