Comment to Net Neutrality changes under consideration by the FCC.

Submitted by: Mitchel Kadish and Judy Grood (husband and wife)

We are opposed to any changes to the existing policy of the FCC regarding the subject of “net neutrality.”

Here are the reasons for our opposition:

1. In the area where we live we have only one provider of high speed internet services – Spectrum Internet. Spectrum should not be able to influence, in any way, the lawful content that we are able to receive from their internet service. Our understanding is that the proposed changes will allow Spectrum to throttle the speeds of, or access to, sites that we regularly use and/or will use in the future by charging us or those sites a fee for access and/or speed of access. We think that the current policy that does not allow the provider to do this should be continued into the indefinite future.

The argument that these fees are needed to bolster internet access and speeds are not compelling. We already pay Spectrum a monthly fee for internet access. Spectrum already has a tiered pricing system based on the speed of the connection. If Spectrum wishes to improve internet service there are other ways to raise revenue to do so.

It is crucial that we have equal access to all sites that we wish to use, and no provider should be able to control that access. Spectrum should not be able to use their monopoly position to control access to information.

2. The internet is an important resource for maintaining our democracy. In this country we have a highly concentrated media ownership, and as a result, alternative sources of information and points of view are “drowned out” by this concentration. It is apparent that media consolidation will continue unabated, and as a result, the internet is increasingly vital to the dissemination of information and alternative points of view.

The FCC should do its part to encourage and help to enable a strong democracy. The proposed changes to the net neutrality policy will do the opposite.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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