

Mr. Pai,

What your plan promises is contrary to the very foundations of American democracy. America is built on a foundation of the free market, and the ideal of the American Dream—that any individual, given enough strength and courage, may achieve any goal. These tenets have allowed America to grow from an insignificant colony to the center of global trade.

The tech industry has also allowed America to grow. Bell Labs, the ENIAC, and countless other innovations, created in the U.S., has given the United States the advantage of the brightest minds in technology. Essentially every major internet company is located within the United States due to that fact; and countless new companies are popping up. Facebook, Twitter, and Google, a few examples, represent how the internet can enable startups to explosively grow and make our country the center of global innovation.

The center of this is the open internet—and your bill threatens this directly. Allowing large companies such as Netflix to have an advantage over smaller startups discourages innovation, and makes small, up-and-coming companies inherently disadvantaged against their larger counterparts, no matter how much effort, how much innovation, they put into their product.

In a perfect free-market economy, ISPs would be plentiful, and those that gave the widest access to websites and best prices would naturally emerge due to customer preference. However, in the U.S., that is not currently the case. For ISPs to function, they must have large amounts of infrastructure, starting capital, and a user base, which discourages newcomers to the market. As a result, ISPs dominate entire regions and even deal within themselves in order to partition the United States in a disjoint way, killing competition—the center of a free-market economy.

Already, the existing internet infrastructure in the U.S., is crippled by a lack of legislation regarding quality. Countries such as South Korea have become centers of technological innovation within their regions as a result of investing huge amounts of money into technology and ensuring that ISPs deliver the latest technology to their users. At this point, internet is almost as critical a municipal supply as food or water—essentially fueling all business within the area. If the United States continues to fall behind the rest of the

world in innovation, businesses will inevitably be enticed by emerging markets such as India, moving the focus of global technological innovation away from the United States.

A free and open internet without any limitations on content is what has made America great. Threaten it, and threaten the American dream, the free-market economy, and the technological innovation that has brought humanity forward.

Sincerely,

- Liam