FCC Review Chairmen, Esteemed Congressmen and Senators,

I am an avid user of the internet. I use it for gaming, recreation, research, work, communication, entertainment, job seeking, bill paying, banking, vacation planning, news consumption, statistics, telecommunication, tele-presentation, to work from home, and to talk with my family and friends.

The internet is entertainment in that I can read books, watch movies, and have discussions with friends, family, and strangers – but it is also a vital component of everyday life. I use it to check my bank accounts and to transfer money to family members; I use it while at the office to coordinate speeches, presentations, and job-required training; I use it while at home to receive time-sensitive work information and to respond to emergency situations; I use it to pay my water, electric, and gas bills as well as rent. The internet is how I look for a new job, how I apply to a new job, how I am informed that I may have an interview for a new job. The internet is how I purchase health insurance, car insurance, renters insurance, and life insurance as well as how I check the status of claims, submit forms regarding claims, and stay up to date on changes to my policies.

The internet has become a utility. A person who does not have access to the internet does not have access to job markets, does not have access to current events, and does not have access to society at large. A person without the internet cannot search for federal, state, or municipal laws that they are expected to follow; they are not fully informed of their rights; they are cut off from information about other citizens who have navigated legal channels; and that sort of ignorance (which is not an excuse for breaking the law) sets them up for legal trouble in the future. In the same way that technology has made factories more productive by enhancing the capabilities and efficiency of a worker, the internet has made citizens more productive with their life - from leisure activities to legal activities to social activities.

The internet has connected us all to one another like nothing else in history, and the reason for its rapid growth and acceptance is directly a result of its utility and benefit.

Net Neutrality ensures that all citizens have access to the entire internet and to all the activities they already use. It ensures that citizens who have innovative ideas can share that information with the world, can build new businesses, can write news stories, can publish book, can create art, and can simply share their opinion – a vital component of democracy. Net Neutrality is the assurance that as a citizen, when I pay for the utility of using the internet, I have access to paying bills at both large electic companies and small regional companies, that I have access to my bank accounts both with international banks and small regional banks, that I can talk with my family through a large company like Facebook and also small forums like Gaia Online.

If Net Neutrality is repealed, it is effectively creating a monopoly in regards to information, job market access, bill paying, legal advice, communication, and news. Companies like Comcast will be able to target specific users and specific businesses and isolate them from the world, removing them from search engines, removing them from bookmarks, and removing them from public knowledge. This gives internet providing companies the ability to legally extort all the technology and innovation of the last 20 years, to take my love of my family and my FaceTime calls to my grandparents and demand extra fees from me because I want to be a good child. The only alternative to the fee would be to pretend it is 1990 again, to pretend that it isn’t possible to hold a video conference, to pretend that all the technology that people have come to rely upon simply doesn't exist.

If Net Neutrality is repealed, it will result in a dystopia where working from home, using email, checking a family member's Facebook, and doing simple tasks like banking and bill paying are privileges of the wealthy. These added fees will simply lock poor people out of the progress that society has made, and be one more expense that must be added to the budget.

I understand that repealing Net Neutrality will be an effective tool to safeguard America from situations like Russian meddling in our elections. I understand that repealing Net Neutrality is seen as a component of national security when it comes to information warfare. However, Net Neutrality is not the only mechanism that can assure these protections.

Have you considered IP tracking? Have you considered the China Model, that rejects foreign IP access? Have you considered assigning Americans internet addresses to the same effect as Social Security numbers? Have you looked into alternative machines and infrastructure that serve our internet access? Have you considered classifying information as a trade commodity or cultural export and regulating it through NATO or similar Open Trade Agreements? Have you considered a national database for web page creation, a filing system that tracks the owner of a website the same way we track the owners of businesses?

Net Neutrality runs the risk of creating monopolies, and letting profit incentives and greed dictate which parts of the internet are accessible. Businesses are inherently selfish, and they cannot be trusted with such power. If the internet is to be improved or made safer, then it is the government that should be in charge of the regulation rather than an un-elected board member who does not answer to public opinion. We must assure transparency, and should Net Neutrality be repealed then we cannot assure transparency in anything.

I advocate that Net Neutrality must be upheld, and that the internet should be classified as a public utility.

Sincerely,

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