To Whom it may concern at the FCC,

As a software developer in one of the fastest growing markets in the United States (North Austin Texas), I cannot urge you enough to halt proceedings against net neutrality. The policy of an open and free internet is directly correlated to my ability to create an income and provide for my family. This is true for numerous other developers, engineers, and designers throughout this city. Without an open internet the culture of startups will wither and die on the vine.

I have worked at streaming companies barely making enough to keep the lights on. Tech companies that were revolutionizing their industry but all we could afford were milk crates and beer for office decorations. But we competed with the big guys and won every time. This was because we could reach the same customers they could but we could do it better. If you allow for ISP’s to charge for access to customers, as they will almost certainly do, you are allowing the big companies to pick the winners and losers.

We’ve heard a lot about main street versus wall street over the few years. Small internet companies are the main street of today. Shopping malls empty of retail are being picked up by small tech startups. I work at a company right now that is in retail office space that sat empty for years. We are surrounded by hungry young startups that are bringing life back into the cities of our nation. But this policy will kill this growth in its grave.

If you allow internet service providers to determine what content they will provide customers, even if they are open and honest about it, what you will create is a system where they are open and honest about destroying innovation. They will give customers what they want right now but the companies that are working to make something of themselves will never make it.

Please. I beg you. The deck is stacked against us enough. The odds against success as a small tech start up are almost insurmountable. Please do not make it impossible for us to create new jobs, new opportunities, and new technologies. Because that’s what our entire industry is founded on and you are chancing so a few ISP’s can make a little more money.

Signed,

Richard Leland Harrison

Software Developer and tech Entrepreneur