I believe Chairman Pai’s proposed plan to end net neutrality will lead to an oppressive, monopolistic Internet industry that will exploit consumers while enriching already wealthy Internet service providers (ISPs). While some misguidedly view the Obama era regulations as oppressive on ISPs, the proposed rule changes in fact would oppress the American people, which the FCC is beholden to – not the telecom giants. The proposed rule changes create an environment where ISPs can commit an American cardinal sin - censorship. Under Chairman Pai's plan, ISPs will be able to make it more difficult to access political speech that they don't like. They'll be able to charge fees for website delivery that would make it harder for blogs, nonprofits, artists, and others who can't pay up to have their voices heard.

I don't want ISPs to have the power to block websites, slow them down, give some sites an advantage over others, split the Internet into "fast lanes" for companies that pay and "slow lanes" for the rest, or force me to buy special "tiers" to access the sites and services I choose. But that's exactly what the FCC plan would do.

Blocking & throttling by ISPs is a serious problem. Comcast has throttled Netflix, AT&T blocked FaceTime, Time Warner Cable throttled the popular game League of Legends, and Verizon admitted it will introduce fast lanes for sites that pay-and slow lanes for everyone else-if the FCC lifts the rules. This hurts consumers and businesses large and small.

If some companies can pay ISPs to have their content load faster, startups and small businesses that can't pay those fees won't be able to compete. This will kill the open marketplace that has enabled millions of small businesses and created America’s 5 most valuable companies. Without strong net neutrality protections, Internet providers will effectively be able to impose a tax on every sector of the American economy.

I also point out that Chairman Pai has worked for Verizon in their general counsel department attacking competitive behavior and defending anti-competitive behavior. I believe he is not the right person for the role of FCC Chairman because of his mixed interests in the matter and behavior that indicates he is not working for the American people.

Chairman Pai’s suspicious behavior in refusing to comply with the Attorney General of New York and creating a political spin on the matter - misleading Americans into believing this matter is less about Americans v. telecom oligarchs and more about Republicans v. Democrats - further adds credence to the belief of most Americans who believe Chairman Pai is acting out of the interest of some entity other than the American people. His behavior indicates a lack of care for our American values and interests.

I hope the other members of the FCC can make the right decision – the decision of the American people – and vote NO on Chairman Pai’s (read: telecom giants’) rule changes.

Sincerely,

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