To whom it concerns,

I am writing to ask you to maintain net neutrality to protect small businesses and artists.

The internet has become a utility, in a sense, in that we all spend much of our lives online. Personally, we use the internet to pay our bills, research life insurance, connect with our friends and families. Professionally, we use the net for e-commerce, advertising, telling the story of our business – and we do this if we have a huge business or a tiny one-woman show. We sell services, we sell stuff, we sell music!

Music is actually the perfect example to illustrate how damaging the repeal of net neutrality will be for so many people:

*So imagine for a second a musician sells their own digital music — on their website, on Bandcamp, wherever. iTunes is riding in that fast lane. Spotify? Probably. But Bandcamp? The musician’s website? They’re more like a rusty BMX pulling a three-wheeled Radio Flyer wagon over a cracked sidewalk.*

*When someone buys digital music from an artist directly they’ll see long, slow downloads that hopefully manage to finish. When they stream music from that same musician’s site it’ll hang and pause unless it’s compressed to hell. But when that same person buys from iTunes? Smooth like butter.*

*Some fans will put up with the frustrating experience of buying direct from an artist because they know it’s better for them, but that’s not everyone. Expect direct-to-fan artist businesses to migrate to iTunes and Google. Without Title II net neutrality the web is just a battle of media titans with musicians caught in the crossfire. Artists who don’t sign everything over to big labels or plan to sell only through the biggest outlets will be hurt. The independent music world will be fundamentally changed. We’ve moved to a digital world. That isn’t going to change. Killing Title II net neutrality makes it even harder for independent musicians to survive in a digital landscape. (source:* [*https://medium.com/cash-music/if-the-web-loses-net-neutrality-independent-musicians-will-lose-their-careers-d8226f9f2e3a*](https://medium.com/cash-music/if-the-web-loses-net-neutrality-independent-musicians-will-lose-their-careers-d8226f9f2e3a)*)*

The internet is not a commodity itself. Like our roads, our power grid, our sewer system, the internet is a utility that makes life possible for the average American.

Please keep net neutrality intact.