FCC Commissioners,

“Internet Fast lanes” are not like toll roads. Toll roads are owned by the government, and thus by the people. They can only be shut down for required maintenance or public safety. If a private company were to own a toll road, they could shut down an exit to a town for having an unfavorable opinion of them. They could charge people more just to keep driving.

“But Sean,” you might say, “People can choose not to drive on a toll road. They could drive on other roads instead.”

In many places, my home of Baltimore included, there is only one choice for internet. People have no recourse, and the companies have no competition, leaving them with no incentive to cater to their customers or treat them respectfully. Transparency of practices doesn’t matter when the citizen cannot act upon that information except for to cut themselves off from the primary modern form of communication, entertainment, and education.

“But Sean,” you say, “People pay taxes to fund highways. Isn’t this the same principle?”

No- you are not charged a certain tax based on what towns you visited, how many times. The government doesn’t track that, and can’t legally set taxes based on what towns it likes best, or which towns kiss its boots. This repeal allows the internet service providers to do that.

In the end, this is about freedom. Many American citizens don’t have freedom of choice when it comes to internet providers. The FCC can’t necessarily change that, but it can make it much harder for the sole internet providers to price-gouge their customers. This net neutrality repeal does the exact opposite.

I hope some of you change your minds.

Sean Konig