Giving a select few corporations the ability to limit access, deny access, and filter content of a resource such as the internet will have long lasting harmful affects for every American citizen. I do not support changing the FCC rules that currently allow for Net Neutrality, furthermore, I stress the importance of Net Neutrality through the following points.

1. Economic Impact
   1. Research
      1. Research is the life blood of business. New discoveries in all fields drive product creation and knowledge creation pushing the economy to greater unknown heights. Seeding over control in any form or fashion of this area could result in reduced research endeavors due to any increase in the cost of the research by paying greater fees to reach needed materials. Giving over control of all future research all to a few corporations risks the future of all business and families who depend on the income from those businesses.
   2. Small Business
      1. Small business are an obvious group of people who will suffer if they are unable to reach breakeven levels due to higher fees and expenses related to marketing and advertising expenses. In worse examples, the possibility exists that a moral filter could be applied thereby completely ending some personal business. In short, any change in fees or possibility for arbitrary filters places undue stress on small business that could end the income of individuals and thereby reduce their ability to spend and lift the economy.
   3. Education
      1. Today we find hundreds if not thousands of websites devoted to education. Khan Academy is my favorite example. Limiting or denying access to a fundamental economic driver such as educations is a sure sign of future economic struggle. The value creation each American citizen brings to the economy is in part a result of the education level they are able to reach. When it suits the corporations, they will limit access to Khan Academy just as they did with Netflix. This could be to drive visitor traffic to their own education sites. Where they would be able to control what citizens are able to learn.
   4. Cloud Big Data
      1. Companies like Amazon, Google, and Oracle sell cloud services to all types business. Allowing anyone to throttle internet on either side
2. Implications for Civil Liberties
   1. Reduced free speech
      1. What citizens are allowed to read determines what they are allowed to think. For example, in every public library in San Antonio public access points to the internet are available. Why would a public service such as the library allow access to the internet? They support the idea of information exchange and access to knowledge. In the same buildings in which we vote for our local representatives and house the knowledge of our society we also host access to the public forum on the internet.
   2. Reduced public forum
      1. Any interruption, even as small as a second delay, has a huge impact on accessing that information. Each possible delay introduced reducing the likelihood that people on time pressured public access will be able to reach the information they seek or be able to post their opinion. Posting opinions such as this on the FCC website.
   3. Reduced advocacy
      1. Arbitrary control over access provides for an interruption to charity too. Red Cross depends on the internet to reach volunteers. No more visible recently, than in Houston Texas where the ability of the Red Cross to mobilize the population to protect itself, to identify and rapidly train volunteers, and to direct refugees to local shelters (updated regularly). Lives of citizens were saved by the ability of the Red Cross to communicate and organize through the internet. A reduction in service to this charity and many others would see a reduction in the ability of all charities to function. Arbitrary control should not be given to small few over such an important part of our lives.
      2. Let’s imagine a scenario in which a racist is allowed to control the internet. A movement like Black Lives Matter would never be able to gain traction and be heard if it were censored by that executive.
3. Implications on Government Operations
   1. Military Operations and Moral
      1. Entertainment is vitally important to moral of our troops fighting to protect our freedom and interests abroad. Diminished service to those serving overseas would result in diminished readiness and performance. The USO is an example of how entertainment is openly understood to be a key part of any war fighting effort.
   2. Military Health Care System
      1. Military health care is made available to retired veterans only through the internet. Imagine a scenario in which a veteran needs to make an appointment see to a health care professional only to find the website is blocked or throttled down to an unusable state. The possibility become available when control over blocked sites and throttling is given away.
4. Impact on the Way of Life
   1. File Storage and Backups
      1. Many citizens now use cloud storage and backups. Allowing anyone to throttle or censor the internet is the equivalent of writing modern ransomware attacks into law. The ransom paid to reach these files, backups, and other sites would be the fees required to be paid by the corporations controlling the access.
   2. Daily small communications and transactions
      1. Facetime, whatsapp, facebook, snapchat, twitter, blogs, etc. all depend on a free and open internet to survive. The quality of life increase as a result of this open communication is unmeasurable. How do we measure the joy of a grandparent see their grandchild for the first time through facetime? When a few corporations with financial rewards for blocking those grandparents from seeing the child are made possible an emotional cost greater than any ever paid by Americans is made available.
   3. Internet Like A Road
      1. Often times people are unable to choose which provider they want to use. Many residences are only offered one provider. In the case where options are taken away we are in a similar situation as if all roads were toll roads. Those few wealthy enough to pay the tolls will be able to drive on the road and those unable to pay will be forced to walk. In this example, we could say the difference between driving and walking would be the ability to gain employment. Which is only made possible by being able to maintain reliable transportation.

Nearly every facet of our economy, civil liberty, government, and way of life depends on a free and neutral internet to function. I would go so far as to suggest that we amend the constitution to force a permanent net neutrality. I support net neutrality and I urge anyone considering a revision of these rules to read my message and understand it’s intent.