

Dear Chairman and Commission Members,

The authority for the FCC to make decisions regarding broadband classification has been upheld by the courts. The Open Internet Order (OIO) and the proposed Restoring Internet Freedom Order (RIFO) both claim such. The legal authority is there; what matters is perspective.

What I fear in your upcoming vote to reclassify broadband as “information services” would lead to the throttling of new economies. One of the things we cannot know is the potential industries that might bloom if an open internet is maintained, while allowing ISPs carte blanche to control the flow of the Internet will most certainly lead to economies—some almost certainly invisible to us—being eliminated. I want these economies protected as I value what they bring to our society. This is not purely a national issue; U.S. citizens will be put at a disadvantage in the global marketplace if they cannot freely connect. The FCC has the power protect US businesses, economies, and merchants by maintaining the OIO.

And it's not only the protection of these economies, but protection of the consumer by ISPs that will undoubtedly take advantage. Perhaps that is alarmist, but when there's money to be made, I expect businesses to go after it for their shareholders. I fear, in the instatement of the RIFO, that a check on such activity is lost. I support a standard of fairness, therefore, when it comes to the Internet. I want to be able to get on the Internet—exchange photos, call friends and family, set up engagements—without an ISP making me pay for one thing over the other.

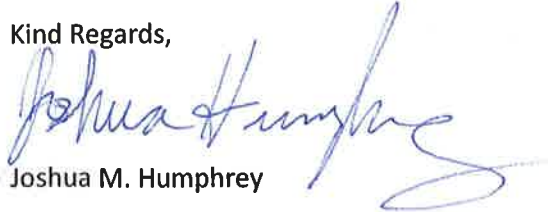
The FCC has the power to protect new economies and the consumer. Further, the spirit if not the letter of the First Amendment—not only free speech, but freedom of association and freedom of religion—would also be protected. I fear a limit of opportunities should the RIFO be passed.

As a final note, I do not consider “information services” as necessarily an incorrect classification. There is ample evidence to support such a conclusion. But such a classification also reflects a somewhat outdated model of thinking about the Internet. The Internet is no longer sending basic information to

and from dial-up modems in small increments. We do so much communication by the Internet—text, pictures, graphics, and yes, calls—that “telecommunication services” and classification as a common carrier also works.

My hope is that you support the inherent protection and fairness provided by the OIO and vote to reject the RIFO. Regardless, your decision is yours to make and I hope you make it well.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joshua M. Humphrey", with a stylized, flowing script.

Joshua M. Humphrey