

From: Berk Akinci
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To: Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Date: November 29, 2017

Re: "Restoring Internet Freedom" - WC Docket No 17-108

To the FCC:

An open internet (net neutrality) is very important to me and the companies for which I work and regularly do business. I am an engineer. I've developed my career in the high-tech startups developing networking and computing devices. I am a cofounder of a budding bio-tech company. Without net neutrality, these startups would be facing undue challenges competing against the incumbents.

The open internet has changed the way we live, communicate and innovate in many ways. We share information globally. We can access vast databases of information for research or development. We can access customers. We can access sellers or buy services. We can do all of this almost instantly. Access to the open internet is a necessity, not a luxury. In many ways, it resembles access to our highways. The ISPs provide this access (highways) to the open internet, but they are not the provider (source) of the information we access.

I am delighted that I have access to two separate ISPs. The competition has kept my internet access prices low. On average I can switch providers every three years to get a better deal. I'm lucky to be able to have this choice. However, the choice is still between two giant ISPs: Verizon and Comcast. If left unchecked, it is unlikely I have much power to change how these ISPs chose to treat me. Many of my coworkers and friends have no such choice. Even in a crowded metro-Boston area, they are stuck with a single ISP.

The classification of ISPs as common carriers and giving the FCC authority to regulate them under Title II just makes sense! Our choices are limited. The ISPs are holding a near-monopoly on our access to the vast internet where we buy, share, think, learn, develop, and innovate. The FCC should have the authority to regulate ISPs as common carriers. Otherwise, our access to the open internet will suffer. The advancement and competitiveness of this country in the global scene will suffer.

I urge the FCC and Congress: do not roll back the current net neutrality rules based on Title II.

Berk Akinci