A Message to the United States Federal Communications Commission,

One of the objectives of the FCC is to promote technological neutrality through regulatory policies.[[1]](#footnote-2) In 2015 the FCC stated that “the Commission—once and for all—enacts strong, sustainable rules, grounded in multiple sources of legal authority, to ensure that Americans reap the economic, social, and civic benefits of an Open Internet today and into the future.”[[2]](#footnote-3) The FCC stated that they adopted net neutrality rules to “preserve the Open Internet as a platform for free expression and innovation.”[[3]](#footnote-4) Therefore, one of the benefits of net neutrality is the preservation of the constitutional first amendment right (freedom of expression and speech) of Americans online. However, the FCC now plans to dismantle their rules that ensured multiple benefits, including constitutional benefits, for all internet-using Americans.

Although I am not an American, I am concerned that the abandonment of net neutrality in America will bring about a domino effect whereby other countries, such as my home of Canada, will pursue similar policies. The United States, much like Canada, is a nation which claims it supports the liberty of its citizens and the liberty of people around the world, but the American Federal Communications Commission is limiting the online liberty of Americans and possibly citizens of other nations by pursing policies hostile to net neutrality. Many others are raising their voices in support of net neutrality, we all hope the FCC will not continue to pursue its proposed policies against net neutrality that are contradictory to both the mandate of the FCC and the United States Constitution.

A Concerned Neighbour to the North, Julian Matheson.

1. Federal Communications Commission, *Fiscal Year 2008 Performance and Accountability Report* (Washington: FCC, 2008), p.12. Retrieved from: https://transition.fcc.gov/Reports/ar2008.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Federal Communications Commission, *FCC News: February 26, 2015* (Washington: FCC, 2015) p. 1. Retrieved from: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\_public/attachmatch/DOC-332260A1.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Federal Communications Commission, *Empowering the 21st Century Consumer* (Washington: FCC 2016) p. 4. Retrieved from: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\_public/attachmatch/DOC-341812A1.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)