All Concerned:

It is imperative for the continuation of our digital economy and our modern democracy that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) remain classified under title 2, ensuring that the internet is treated as a utility. Title 2 utility classification encourages new tech start-ups and the use of existing ISPs and platforms for new and existing ventures. This will build the US economy and steadily increase long term profitability of existing ISPs and platforms.

Additionally, title 2 classification allows for equal access to media ranging from news to streaming services and beyond. This encourages civic discourse and facilitates entertainment among the populace. Furthermore, it prevents the throttling of educational sites, such as university and high school distributed learning environments, such as Blackboard Learn. This contributes to the economy by facilitating a greater number of skilled laborers to fill jobs, increasing taxable revenue among the population.

Without Title 2 protections applied to ISPs, we can expect a significant backlash from the voting populace and withdrawal of campaign funds from voters and many platforms and their CEOs. Furthermore, without Title 2 Protections, the populace will be less reachable by politicians and government campaigns, as ISPs will determine what people see and have access to. This would give ISPs a disproportionate say in our government and allow them to strangle out political movements they don’t agree with. This would allow the ISPs to have a monopoly on information, which would hurt the bottom lines of other ISPs and undermine our democracy.

Due to the likelihood of damage to our economy and our democracy and the potential for ISPs to gain a stranglehold on political campaigns, I urge the FCC to uphold Title 2 Classification of the internet as a utility.

Respectfully,

Clayton Hensley