I strongly support the classification of broadband internet access, both fixed and wireless, as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act. In the past two decades, the market for broadband has grown increasingly concentrated, and a number of internet service providers (ISPs) have purchased companies that directly compete with other ‘downstream’ content providers. I fear—no, I **know** that without the Title II classification, ISPs will choose to block or degrade service to products and services offered by competitors, and/or provide varying levels of internet service to consumers based on fees.

In other words, without the Title II classification of broadband internet access as a telecommunications service, corporations will control what Americans can access through the Internet. Americans with less money to spare will have more limited access, or none at all. Wealthy Americans will have access to more information. Lower income areas—their hospitals, schools, artists, libraries—will be hit the hardest. LGBT+ children and teens in hostile environments will lose the online relationships that remind them their lives will get better. Citizens who try to improve themselves through online college courses will lose that avenue toward their American Dream. Voters will be barred from collecting the information they need to make educated choices. The Americans who are already in the most peril from the loss of the Affordable Care Act, or the implementation of the proposed tax plan, will be hit hardest.

If broadband internet access is reclassified under Title I, corporations will control what our people see; when you control what people see, you control what they think. That is the reality we are facing. That is not a democracy. That is not freedom, no matter what other rhetoric may claim about “free” markets.

On February 26, 2015, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted 3-2 to approve new open internet rules, replacing 2010 rules that had been vacated by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals in January 2014. Under the new rules, the practices of blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization - also known as "fast lanes" - are prohibited. A number of additional provisions are included in the rules that deal with transparency, interconnection agreements, network management, and regulatory forbearance, among other things. On June 14, 2016, the D.C. Circuit **upheld** the FCC’s open internet rules by a vote of 2-1. Following the reclassification of broadband internet access under Title II, the FCC adopted Broadband Consumer Privacy rules on October 27, 2016. In addition to establishing standards for data breach and cybersecurity, the rules set limits on the collection and use of user data by ISPs.

We have already lost the Broadband Consumer Privacy rules. We cannot lose Net Neutrality. Before President Trump appointed Ajit Pai to the Federal Communications Commission, Mr. Pai worked as a lawyer for Verizon. Mr. Pai is behaving as if he still works for that corporation’s interests, rather than the interests of the American people. I charge the other members of the FCC, as an American citizen, to vote to uphold the Title II classification on December 14, 2017.