

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

To the Federal Communications Commission and Director Ajit Pai,

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to ending net neutrality requirements on internet service providers (ISPs). Allowing ISPs to degrade access to internet content of their choosing, or similarly impose extra fees for access to content of their choosing, or even allowing ISPs to outright block access with impunity will greatly diminish the freedom of information and commerce in our nation. This is contrary to the values and ideals of the United States of America and will degrade our nation.

Ending the net neutrality rules would also be blatantly contrary to the strategic goals of the F.C.C. in protecting the public (the public) interest and promoting economic growth. Such a rule change would be contrary to the American ideals of the freedom of information, the freedom of speech, and the free market. It is not difficult to imagine that should net neutrality rule be changed, any U.S. citizen who wishes to use the internet to start a business or promote an idea would need to be sure that they do not hold any position with which the ISPs disagree (information control), and would also need to be sure they do not do anything that might compete with the ISPs various business operations (market control). What freedom would remain? Electronic information transfer has become an integral part of American life, and ending net neutrality would insert a small number of powerful ISPs into nearly every aspect of American life. Consider what happens if you would like to use a messaging system to have a discussion that the ISPs, or someone who pays them enough money, disapproves of. There is no reason why fiber optic companies should control what people are allowed to talk about.

We the people paid for the invention of the internet, we the people allow the use of public resources and byways for the distribution of the internet, and all users already pay the ISPs for the service they provide in transmitting data using the internet protocols. That is their business and there is no reason to allow the ISPs to control the meaning and application of the data being transmitted, other than a transparent attempt by the ISPs to expand their business into controlling how the internet is used. It would be a shameful act on your part to end net neutrality.

Sincerely,

Joshua Bienfang