**Comment Regarding the FCC Proposal To Eliminate Net Neutrality**

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11 December 2017

I urge the FCC to retain the principle of net neutrality.

I first began to use computers in 1966, when I was 16. I am now 67 and so have used computers in various forms for over 50 years. I moved from punch cards to big desktops to my current laptop; I have learned to use word processing software, spreadsheets, PowerPoint, E-mail programs, and specialty software like my music-writing program. Most important of all, I used complicated codes in my decades-long career in radiation protection (I could run all of the big radiation shielding codes, including custom coding as necessary.)

I remember when there was no Internet and so I have been able to observe first-hand the progress of the Internet. I would like to remind the FCC that in the beginning it was invented by scientists to foster scientific communication. Its wider development, the World Wide Web, was specifically meant to enhance communication for everybody, not just commercial entities.

The FCC proposal to eliminate net neutrality would essentially open the way for commercial entities to bully rivals like small businesses off the Internet by hogging the “first offerings” (the listings that a search engine presents first) and pushing others too far down in the listing for it to be feasible for most searchers to continue a search, due to time constraints. The Internet would in time be dominated by larger commercial interests and politically influential entities, e.g., political candidates or idea advocates with big war chests as opposed to challengers with small funding.

I don’t use social media myself, but I expect that as we have seen commercial interests all acquire Facebook pages and Twitter accounts, social media too would be taken over by commercial and other financially influential interests.

My chief fear in all of this is something we have seen already in the last few years: one is constantly having the content one is seeking obscured by marketing, such as pop-up adds, solicitations for E-mail addresses, and unwanted spam following purchases and even mere inquiries. Ostensibly one’s E-mail address is required so that a message for a confirmation of a purchase may be sent, but then one is bombarded by commercial advertisements from the vendor, sometimes two a day. I unsubscribe, but this is tedious.

I object to having to tolerate being marketed to constantly. We have phone calls despite being on the DO NOT CALL list; we have an increased number of commercials and a decreased progrlam content even on the cable TV we already pay for; and every charitable contribution is followed by repeated mailings from the charity and any entity it sells our information to. With the elimination of net neutrality, this sort of thing would be ramped up to a heretofore undreamed-of extreme.

I believe that all of the members of the FCC are well aware of what will happen if they eliminate net neutrality. I beg those members who are expecting to vote against it to reconsider. If they vote against net neutrality, they are voting against the everyday welfare of their fellow citizens and in favor of the enhancement of the bottom line of commercial interests. That is not neutrality at all.