

Despite the fact that the FCC commissioner has suggested ignoring public comments due to many “robo” additions from unknowns, I feel that I must make my voice heard on this matter.

The ineptly named “Restoring Internet Freedom” notice sets in place rules that undermine the internet, and will inhibit its utility as an economic driver. Here, I note that, even in a dense metro area, I have only 2 ISP choices for broadband access - many areas have only one. Contrary to the Commissioner’s view, I think monopolies are bad. By definition, they disadvantage the consumer, which is why there are laws and rules governing those which exist for practicality.

In the case of each of these 2 providers, public investment, rules abatements, special egress legislation and tax concessions were made to encourage infrastructure investment that made the businesses possible. To now pretend that any private company created (and thereby should be able to dictate all terms of operation) any these networks is preposterous! Can I, as a legal property owner, now deny egress for ISP cables crossing my property to serve neighbors? NO!

I hope the commission will stop pretending that internet access is somehow different than any other common carrier - network infrastructure is independent of its content. Further, each of my providers offer services (over the same conduit) that others offer. My telephony is 3rd party, despite options for that service from my ISP; my video is also sourced from 3rd parties, despite my provider’s own pay-per-view video services. There is a conflict of interest involved that can not be denied; and consumers would have no other options for unbiased service.

This is the most anticompetitive give-away of a publicly-financed resource I have ever known - it should be denied.