Chairman Pai,

I write today in support of maintaining the status quo regarding Net Neutrality – that is, protection under Title 2 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This is why.

The FCC's authority as given in 47 USC Sec. 151 is to "make available... to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges" and it is permitted by 47 USC Sec. 154 (i) to make regulations to that effect. The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 was established, according to the FCC, to "let anyone enter any communications business -- to let any communications business compete in any market against any other. " Net Neutrality protections regulated under Title 2 facilitate that, by allowing small startups to access the same broadband internet pipeline as large media companies with deep pockets. Regulation under Title 3 as was the norm prior to 2015 is not consistent with D.C. Circuit Court ruling 15-1063, where it was found that prior regulatory efforts were insufficient and that regulation as a telecommunications service rather than information service would be required in order to achieve the kind of preemptive protections that consumers and media companies demand. While many of the comments on this issue do not contain this precise legal framework, it is worth noting that the public has spoken on this issue, and the FCC should listen to that as well as to the existing regulatory issues, the history of discrimination by broadband providers, and the current jurisprudence on this issue.

A strong, pre-emptive scheme of consumer-facing protections for Net Neutrality enables the internet to be what it is today: an engine of capitalism, a marketplace of ideas, and a great boon to the American economy. It is a strong public good the way it is, and while the interests of a few would be served in removing this protection, the losses overall would be substantial. The current scheme has not hindered broadband access, growth, innovation or connectivity, but is HAS brought us a massive economic boom that we have been feeling the effects of since the 90s. Perhaps the American economy would be fine without it, perhaps not, but we are a very finely-tuned machine and anything that helps us pick up steam is a good thing in my book.

Luke Hill