Chairman Pai,

I am writing to state my opinion with regard to the upcoming scheduled vote this Thursday by the FCC on the regulations governing access to internet services, the so-called Net Neutrality rules. I am STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF KEEPING THESE REGULATIONS in place, unchanged from the current basic provisions, which I believe are fundamental in providing free, fair, and open access to the internet for all citizens, not only of this country but even beyond its borders.

I disagree with your position that enforcement by the FTC would provide sufficient protection of citizens from violations by corporate offenders of these principles. First, there is simply too much temptation for a given for-profit corporation - which, regardless of its other goals, must hold profit for its stakeholders as one of its chief objectives - to begin a campaign of narrowing the options available to consumers in order to drive traffic toward its own products, concentrate profitability in its own businesses, and take measures to drive competition out of the market. Second, the most effective way to prevent violations from occurring at all is to create a regulatory "playing field" for providers with clearly defined boundaries and rules, equitable to existing and new entrants, with consumers as the chief beneficiaries. Third, monopolistic behavior needs to be "nipped in the bud" so that no company will be tempted in the first place to blur the lines of demarcation between an infrastructure provider (which builds and maintains the "highway" itself) and a services provider (which provides the services that travel across that infrastructure and enable users to connect to the infrastructure).

The internet is now, arguably, the main conduit by which business, commerce, and communication takes place in the United States. It is as vital of a "public good" as free speech itself, and integrally linked to it, and deserves to be protected as vigorously. Today's major players in this industry have already gone too far to consolidate power and are well on the path toward vertical integration of their infrastructures, businesses, and services. If they are given the additional capability of promoting their products over others while simultaneously excluding products of their competitors - with only complaints to the FTC or court challenges to stop them - the game for them would become one of weighing the potential for profit versus the costs of violation, IF they are even caught!

I strongly urge you to uphold the existing regulations, which support the basic rights of citizens to free speech and free choice. If the Net Neutrality rules are overturned now it may be many years and much harm to your constituents before they could be rectified.

Jed Dixon