17-108: On the issue of Net Neutrality – we need to recognize Broadband service as the utility that it is and protect consumers. Please reinstate Net Neutrality including the non-discrimination mandate.

Where I live, we have really only one high speed data choice, and it is not great. It is throttled regularly to ~25Mbit/sec to barely qualify as high speed even though I pay for 100Mbit/sec. Comcast, the incumbent service provider here, obtained their privileged position, at a time when municipalities did exclusive deals and made concessions to “wire the town”. Most of the rest of the USA is similarly positioned.

I expect that I am paying for broadband internet service as a utility, like I am paying for electricity. I would not expect PG&E to unfairly compete by bundling their electricity with in-house manufacturers of light bulbs and appliances. Why do we think it’s okay for broadband?

What I decide to do with the service should be up to me. Like many Americans, I now subscribe to multiple independent services to fulfill entertainment interests, and I like it. For the first time in decades, we see innovation happening in entertainment choices and delivery platforms. At the very time we are turning the corner toward a golden age of new entertainment, our government is selling out the potential for additional innovation and consumer interests to a very narrow (and self-serving) group of a few big donor companies that stand to profit with slanted competition rules.

Broadband needs to be regulated for the benefit of the consumer like the utility that it is. Those who say we need to slant the playing field so the incumbent companies will invest are just WRONG. Big US wireless carriers are lining up to compete with 5G to the home broadband with or without a slanted playing field, and this has also already happened in many other markets around the world (Spain, France, Singapore?) The idea that the government needs to sell out consumer protections and interests to get the companies to invest is just BS. Let competition yield the best experience for me and other customers. Reinstate Net Neutrality.

I have never filed a petition or comments of this sort because our elected officials and the democratic process usually gets the big things mostly right. Apparantly, this is no longer the case. I personally look forward to the opportunity vote out self-serving, not-collaborating politicians who are laying waste to the interests of our society in order to satisfy narrow political agendas and the interests of a few big donors.