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December 8, 2017

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12th Street,  
SW Washington, D.C.

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FCC Mailroom

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Dear Chairman Pai:

My name is Vanessa Ramirez, and I am a high school senior at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science located in Carson, California. I am writing this letter to voice my opinion on net neutrality. Net neutrality has become a major part of people's lives, providing them with equal access to the Internet so all users can use it as quickly as possible. Net neutrality should be kept equal to everyone. The Federal Communication Commission should maintain their rules that prevent ISPs from managing Internet content and from charging websites or other online services for priority treatment on the network. The FCC should maintain these rules because it has been established that net neutrality is a necessity, it violates freedom of speech, and the public's opinion should be heard.

This topic has been a debate for more than 16 years. According to Marguerite Reardon, a CNET News reporter on electronic devices for more than 10 years, in 2015, the Federal Communication Commission's Chairman Tom Wheeler and former President Barack Obama, designed a set of rules that made sure that everyone paid and had equal access to the Internet. The Internet has become a public-utility-like service and it is necessary that the FCC has the legal basis to enforce rules that protect the open internet. Clearly, the Internet has become an important utility in people's daily lives. Even comedian John Oliver brought up the debate over net neutrality, capturing people's attention on the rules of net neutrality and how it should be kept.

Net neutrality should be kept because if net neutrality were to be repealed, it would be against the Constitution. It would be violating the Constitution through the freedom of speech. Many people use social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to engage in a conversation, whether it be politically, academically, or personally. I use Facebook a lot to keep in touch with classmates and find additional assistance on a difficult subject. If net neutrality were to be repealed, a company such as AT&T or Verizon may favor Twitter more, lower the speed of Facebook or make the consumer pay additional fees in order to use Facebook. This would stop from expressing myself by not allowing me to access a site I may need due to insufficient financial resources. Many other students have this problem, an example being student YouTube vloggers. These student vloggers express themselves to their viewers through the use of YouTube. Net neutrality allows for this and to be repealed would take the right to the freedom of speech. Net neutrality also allows people to talk about their own stories and organize for racial

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and social justice because the internet service providers are not allowed to block their message or website.

Historically, the opinion of the people has always been taken into account. That should be the case for net neutrality as well. Today's society wants the net to be equal; equal in all aspects, in speed, in data, and in availability, all at the same price. However, without net neutrality, internet service providers can prohibit these aspects. Internet service providers will charge additional fees for using certain websites or speeding up some websites more than others. According to Pew Research Center, 13% of Americans do not use the Internet, with almost 20% citing high cost as the reason. The 13% of people who don't have Internet access, won't be able to have Internet access later if additional fees will be including. 87% of Americans that currently use the Internet would be directly affected by a repeal of net neutrality as well. Some will either pay the additional fees because they can afford it or they will stop using the internet because they simply can't afford it. The majority of the people want the current policies that keep the Internet equal because they simply won't be able to afford additional fees.

Broadband and telecom companies—and some economists—say that the freedom to charge different prices for different products and services is vital to healthy markets. That kind of “price discrimination,” they say, is the fuel of innovation and efficiency. This is not true for all companies, such as smaller businesses. These smaller companies won't be able to compete with other popular companies that are more likely to sign a partnership with ISPs. If the smaller companies compete with larger companies, the smaller companies will eventually go bankrupt from debt or loss in business because they won't be able to afford since the don't have the same resources larger companies have. Larger companies will be able to maintain stable while smaller companies won't be able to due to the lack of funds.

The internet has become a necessity in almost everyone's lives, making net neutrality important. The internet should be equal to everyone in all aspects such as price and speed. Net neutrality has been discussed over the years and the final conclusion has been to maintain the Internet equal for everyone, no matter the ISPs. Repealing the current net neutrality rules go against the Constitution, stopping the citizens of this country to fully use their freedom of speech. Finally, it is the voice of the people and their concerns that should matter to the government. The United States has always cared for its people and what benefits society as a whole and that is exactly what they should continue to do.

Sincerely,



Vanessa Ramirez

California Academy of Mathematics and Science