

I disagree with the FCC plan to compel Internet broadband and VoIP providers to open their networks up to easy surveillance by law enforcement agencies for the following reasons:

1) It provides the government with the ability to snoop on lawful political activities that must remain private for a democracy to function. Countries like China do this kind of snooping. The United States must not put procedures in place to allow this. History has shown that any procedure that permits a government to spy on its citizens will be abused by the people in power to suppress political views that conflict with their own agenda.

2) It is a waste of resources and money. Another bureaucracy will be created to administer and maintain this complex system. It will require internet carriers to buy a lot of equipment that is not useful for supporting their main service which is to get data from one location to another quickly and at extremely low cost.

3) It is totally ineffective. Anyone who wants to hide communications from the government will encrypt the message or use a protocol that is not VoIP to send the message. The only people that the government can monitor under this plan are law-abiding citizens. No terrorists will be monitored by this plan as they are smart enough to bypass it with currently available technology.

End of Brief Comment