

Dear FCC;

I am a PhD candidate at the Carnegie Mellon School of Computer Science writing to express my opinion in favor of "Network Neutrality" regulation. I hold this point of view for two reasons: first, because network neutrality will not hinder hardware deployment; and second, because it will result in a more efficient and powerful public information infrastructure.

Despite the self-serving claims of some companies, network neutrality will not significantly hinder efforts by network platform providers to expand services and bandwidth. Recent years have seen competition between providers that improved services at the level of trunk connections, local connections, and last-mile connections. Competition between wired and wireless providers has also improved access and network speeds without any address- or content-based filtering. The network platform providers' struggle for consumers and content providers will guarantee next-generation services without the need for content-based filtering.

On the other hand, permitting these filtering practices could hurt innovation in the long run by encouraging an inefficient and bureaucratic mixture of different proprietary networks. The internet certainly qualifies as a public good, a resource on par with the radio spectrum. The public has a strong interest in keeping the rules by which it runs transparent and uniform. Network neutrality is one case where a simple regulation can preemptively prevent a "tragedy of the commons" where each platform provider is forced by its neighbors to create complicated, inefficient, and unnecessary content-filtering rules.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Thompson