

To Whom it May Concern,

This email is in regards to Docket 07-52, In the Matter of Broadband Industry Practices. It is my belief that allowing major carriers to implement tiered levels of service will have a hugely negative impact on the internet in terms of the variety of content available as well as it's utility to end-level users. Carriers claim they want to be paid, but they are already paid twice for each bit they transmit, once by the sender, (who pays for upload bandwidth), and once by the receiver for download bandwidth. Allowing carriers to charge additional amounts for quality of service levels will result in a crippling storm of fees and expenses that small providers of content, whom often do so solely out of a sense of community, will not be able to pay. One merely has to note the ridiculous amounts charged by these carriers for text messages and ring-tones and other "nearly free to provide" but "charged for regardless" services, to see what the future of the internet would look like if net neutrality is not assured. It is truly a nightmare scenario. I too strongly urge the Federal Communications Commission to act swiftly to protect "net neutrality", the longstanding principle that prevents discrimination on the Internet. Internet service providers (i.e., telephone and cable companies) have stated numerous times that they now intend to change the way the Internet operates -- from an open and free-flowing medium into a closed system where only the websites and services that could afford to pay hefty fees would continue to operate as they always had. Everyone else (nonprofits, small businesses, bloggers, artists, political candidates, etc.) might find their websites more difficult to find or use. That would be a disaster for our economy, our culture and our democracy. The Federal Communications Commission must act to protect consumers like me from companies that would like to discriminate against certain types of content on the web. I strongly urge you to support net neutrality principles that prohibit broadband providers from blocking, impeding or interfering with any lawful Internet traffic, or prioritizing any content or services. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter F Curran

