

This comment is to express my concern over the state of broadband internet access in the U.S. Our regulatory and commercial environment encourages far less bandwidth per dollar delivered to the end user than in many developed countries. The economics of providing ubiquitous high bandwidth communication is not different in the U.S. than elsewhere, rather it is our regulatory position that encourages far too little to be delivered to the end user per dollar paid than elsewhere. The very definition of broadband in the U.S. is woefully short of the speeds typical in other developed countries.

The telecommunications and cable companies that provide internet access services are allowed to make excess profit on infrastructure that has long been paid for while delivering speeds much lower than in many developed countries around the world. These same companies have fought to deny access by other companies to their infrastructure to limit the competitive environment artificially.

The FCC should transform our broadband policy and revise rules to restore a competitive environment for delivery of high-speed internet access. A new definition of broadband, a minimum of 500 Kbps downstream and 256 Kbps upstream, must be part of the new rules, to provide a useful internet experience. Rule changes and redefinition of what broadband means is needed to naturally reduce the cost of broadband and move our country into a much more competitive position. High speed access to the internet must be encouraged as a key driver for new business, innovation, and as a basis for increased educational opportunity within the U.S. Our current broadband policies frustrate all of these goals.

The availability of inexpensive, open broadband at reasonable speeds will provide an economic lever and technical impetus that will pay dividends and open opportunities that cannot be accessed today due to the economic stranglehold that the telecoms and cable companies have placed on progress with high prices for low speeds and little choice among service providers. I urge the FCC open broadband competition and encourage higher user speeds, and a ceiling on profits from fully paid-for infrastructure for raw internet access. As telecoms and cable companies add value to basic internet access, let those who choose to use these add-on services pay a fair price

for the added service, but do not allow allow the telcos and cable companies to use excess profits on internet access to fatten profits while also using these revenues to expand their restrictive control over delivery of add-on services.

Thank you for considering these comments.