

To FCC,

I am a college student in Vermont and I'll be a New England YUP in four years. I'm currently starting an internship with a research firm in Northampton. They do virtually all of their collaboration and long-distance communication online using Skype, email, a web interface, etc. Organic innovation on the Web is the only way that research companies like my potential hire could exist and work without prohibitively high travel overheads.

Please, please remember the cost to innovation and the costs to the average citizen when the large corporations control the evolution of the Internet. A hundred prominent technologies and innovations that open up new work opportunities in 21st-century America today, would never have come into existence if the Internet had been shaped into a centrally-controlled sandbox fifteen years ago. That centralization would have hobbled the Internet from taking its flexible and organic role in sustaining human culture and technological innovation today. Similarly, failing to instate and enforce Net Neutrality today will deny America the flexibility and innovative potential we need to deal with the problems which we will face in 2020.

America is richer than any other country on Earth in our primary resource: namely, cultural adaptability through the maintenance of organic freedoms. That resource has kept America in world prominence for decades. But adaptability is an exhaustible resource; it is threatened by the short-term corporate interests that fight against Net Neutrality. In this case it seems that the FCC is the tipping point in deciding whether America maintains its identity as an open and growing nation, or whether we are through with that role.

Thank you for reading.