

The internet has become the greatest public utility in the world. It is at once a marketplace, a communication medium, a library and an entertainment center. The principles of common carriage must be upheld for the internet, just as they are for airlines, railways and shipping companies. Without a guarantee of common carriage (the unbiased conveyance of information over the net), commerce will suffer. Creating a tiered access system to the web would stifle innovation and hurt small businesses. It would be shortsighted indeed to impair this country's long-term economic viability just to make a few well-connected telcos a lot richer.

The FCC can ensure that the principles of common carriage are maintained on the internet by the vigilant application of policy. In time, I believe we will also have legislation from Congress codifying common carriage in law. Until that time, tens of thousands of small businesses in America (like mine) are relying on the Federal Communications Commission to preserve this remarkable communications network for the common good.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Rob Cummings