

This a a filing in support of GN 10-127 (Framework for Broadband Internet Service).

As a disabled senior citizen I am dependent on the Internet for my health and safety, and for a valuable connection to my network of friends and acquaintances. Broadband internet must be protected so that reasonably priced access is available to American citizens like me.

I have watched the Internet grow from simple beginnings as the DARPA experiment, into the globe-spanning infrastructure it is today. At each step the telcos and other services providers have either under-appreciated the importance of the internet, or seen it as something that they could bend to their own profit. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) industry must be clearly regulated to enforce fair and reasonable access to all.

I am fortunate to live at the moment in a location that has access to several different base providers of Internet services, and consequently the cost is competitive and reasonable. However I have lived in the past in areas where only one provider was available, and the costs were unreasonably higher. It should be noted that even such resellers of Internet connectivity (such as ClearWire) are still dependent on the telcos that hold monopoly positions in carriage in most areas.

Net Neutrality is a required policy. Without it the small businesses and individual users will be demoted to second-class status and forced to pay more for "premium" access to the Internet.

An Internet without rules that guarantee fair access is akin to the stock markets without the Security Exchange Commission, or to the oil giants that lead to disasters like the current BP crisis in the Gulf of Mexico.

Here in North Carolina, the telcos and the cable television providers have already been seen to have a predatory interest in preserving their monopoly positions. They nearly succeeded in prohibiting towns and cities from being able to deploy their own internet infrastructures as alternatives to the telcos and cable companies. They will surely try again next year, and there must be clear rules that allow universal access in place before then.

I strongly urge you, the Federal Communications Commission, to adopt the National Broadband Plan, and to adopt rules for net neutrality.

--

Gregory G Woodbury