

Aug 25, 2010 / Sep 13, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski:

As a consumer, attorney and user of the internet, I support efforts to reclassify telecommunications carriers and provide strong Net Neutrality protections.

Note that the medium for all telecommunications is publicly owned. Although private telecommunications entities may be licensed to use the medium, it make no sense to give up public control of the medium by giving private entities any legal right to determine public cost for access by the amount of profit those entities desire.

Additionally, without Net Neutrality large profit-driven network providers are free to discriminate against content and applications they don't like.

I strongly believe that only the immediate restoration of longstanding Net Neutrality protections will ensure a vibrant, growing, and innovative Internet free of discrimination.

Net Neutrality opponents inaccurately claim that strong rules will impede competition by regulating the Internet for the first time. This is untrue. Net Neutrality simply protects the free internet that Americans have always enjoyed.

Network providers have already tried to engage in content and user discrimination, and that will only grow without Net Neutrality. Time Warner's AOL blocked all emails that mentioned www.dearaol.com, an advocacy campaign opposing AOL's pay-to-send e-mail scheme. BellSouth blocked access to Myspace.com in Tennessee and Florida. Verizon Wireless has blocked access to PayPal in favor of its own competing online payment service for sites such as eBay.

Reclassification is necessary to enshrine key anti-discrimination provisions so that users can access the websites of their choice and use the equipment they want without interference or degraded service. Reclassification is necessary to ensure public access without private for-profit restrictions on what is correctly a public asset.

Once again I support efforts to reclassify telecommunications providers.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin J. Killeen, Attorney at Law