

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I'm writing today as a tech entrepreneur, employer, and advocate for net neutrality.

I quit my job earlier this year to focus full-time on my startup. It had been a dream of mine for several years to found my own company, and I finally landed on a product I wanted to execute on. When I made the decision, I knew I was stepping into a world of uncertainty: Will our product work? Will we solve my users' problems and make their lives better? Will we be able to build a company around this product and create jobs in Detroit, a city known around the world for its struggling economy?

As we near the exciting launch of our product, an internet-based mobile app, I have a new fear. This is a fear greater than the sum of all others. Why? Because this is a fear I have no control over. This is a fear entirely outside of my hands. I can't pivot from it, I can't go back to the drawing board, I can't listen to my users' feedback and make change. And I certainly can't make money appear out of nowhere to fix the problem.

My new fear is that the internet that I've spent the greater part of my life on learning and growing and laughing and making friends and being inspired, my fear is that the Internet will no longer be the great equalizer, the wide open west, a place where anybody, *anybody* with access can participate.

My fear is that being a small startup with limited funds, we won't be able to afford to pay-to-play. My fear is that the quality of the service that we provide to our users will be compromised because our government failed to write fair rules and make access equal for all players big and small.

When building and offering a product of any kind, quality is the name of the game here. I'm our product designer, and my first priority is to ensure that we provide a quality experience for our users. Constantly in the back of my mind is the statistic that it takes mere seconds to lose a user's attention. Any number of things could make that clock tick, but fortunately we have control over most of them. We have control over the code that we write, control over the design and interface--that's all on us. If we fail at that, we have nobody to blame but ourselves.

But as an internet-based service, we do not have control over the road that provides access to our service, and we certainly don't have the money to pay the toll. And if we can't drive on the toll road and we're limited to the slow lane, we're David fighting Goliath blindfolded with our bare hands. We're dead before we hit the ground running.

Mr. Wheeler, you've stated, "If the proposal before us now turns out to be insufficient or if we observe anyone taking advantage of the rule, I won't hesitate to use Title II." Why hesitate now? It's clear that the threat to Net Neutrality is as serious today as it ever was or will be; why is it not to you? These words tell me that you know in your heart that Title II reclassification is the answer here, but for reasons unknown, you're not pushing for that today. I'm asking you to have the guts to stand up and demand to reclassify Internet Service Providers as Title II Common Carriers.

The Internet is the future. It's what my generation and the next generation grew up on and it's bigger than you or any other entity. It fundamentally changes the way mankind operates. For my government to tip the scales in favor of existing behemoths in the name of greed at the expense of our nation's future is disgusting, disappointing, shortsighted, and frightening. I sincerely hope you don't make the grave mistake of dismissing the importance of Net Neutrality now while you have the chance. Your decision has an incredible impact on our business and thousands of other Internet startups.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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