

The concept of net neutrality is crucial to the smooth and successful working of the Internet. All the tremendous innovation on the Internet that the United States has seen in the past thirty years has only been made possible by the essential principle that all internet traffic is treated equally. To continue the US's history of innovation and technological leadership, we must ensure that this essential founding principle of the Internet is preserved.

If the FCC's proposed rules regarding net neutrality are enacted, it would cause massive and irreparable damage to the US's culture of innovation. By allowing already monopolistic Internet Service Providers to discriminate the traffic they carry in favor of those companies who can afford to pay for preferential "fast lanes", the FCC will kill innovative new ideas and companies by preventing them from effectively competing. If the proposed rules were in place in 1998, Google would never have been able to sustain their now-ubiquitous search engine because they wouldn't have been able to compete with large corporations who could pay for priority access to customers. Enacting these rules will cause US companies to fall behind their European counterparts who enjoy significant net neutrality protection. As a result, the rules will also significantly hurt the strength of our economy. The proposal also represents greedy double-dipping on the part of ISPs; customers already pay their ISP for unrestricted access to services, so asking the services themselves to pay money displays an absurd level of greed. The proposed rules are altogether a deadly blow against the culture of innovation and free expression that the internet represents and that the people of the United States hold so dear.

Instead of allowing the proposed rules and causing immeasurable damage to the internet, the FCC should classify ISPs as Common Carriers so that they must conform to the the Open Internet Order of 2010. By appropriately designating Internet Service providers as a Title II Common Carrier Telecommunications service, the FCC will ensure that all internet traffic is treated equally instead of being dominated by companies with the money to purchase a "fast lane" to customers. Assigning ISPs the proper Common Carrier designation safeguards the freedom and innovation that the internet has produced. The FCC must reject corporate interprets that seek to enact polices that protect their

monopolies. It must decide instead to protect the core American values of freedom and innovation, and act in support of the American people by enacting common carriage rules that keep the crucial principle of net neutrality alive.