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Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O'Reilly:

I'm writing you to express my thoughts on net neutrality. Recent policy changes proposed by Mr. Wheeler are disturbing on a deep, personal level - as a citizen who lives and dies by the net, I'm asking you to take action.

The internet has become, for better or worse, the voice of our nation. Our opinions, thoughts, and beliefs are all expressed online. Our creativity may take form in offices and garages, but we rely on the internet to take it beyond the confines of our physical workplaces. A fair and open internet encourages us to make the most of our unprecedented level of connection. However, that's only the case when the playing field is level. Allowing ISPs the amount of power that Mr. Wheeler apparently intends to give them will severely damage the small businesses and innovators of the internet. I personally work for a startup business that heavily relies on online traffic. If connectivity becomes a paid resource, we will not be able to compete with the likes of internet giants - this company others like it will suddenly be placed in a race that they cannot help but lose.

Quality should attract attention, not money. Passion should attract attention, not money. Originality should attract attention, not money.

Chairman, Commissioners, I am not a frothing patriot, but I hold a few American myths very close to heart. Chief among them is the concept that a man or woman - by dint of hard work, intelligence, and perseverance - can become great. The internet is the prime avenue that I and so many others walk toward this ideal, please do not allow these changes to clog it.

There is more to our country than money. I believe that what a man has to say is far more important than how much he's willing to pay to say it. For this reason, and many more besides, I urge the commissioners to fight Wheeler's changes, to maintain net neutrality, and eventually take steps to reclassify ISPs as Telecommunications Services.

A biased net hurts us all.

Sincerely,
Alec Cole