

7521120858.txt

I am a serial entrepreneur and have created hundreds of jobs through businesses that leverage a free and open Internet (CompuServe, paymybill.com, tiktz.com). We oppose and discourage passage of the FCC's proposed plan that would allow Internet providers to offer preferential treatment to businesses that pay a toll. This policy would present obstacles to freedom and equality of communications. The Internet is fundamentally different from other markets for goods and services. The distinction is that it presents a platform for communication that should not be sold to the highest bidder. Instead, a level playing field in communications enables the best ideas and highest value services to emerge. Otherwise, they will be squelched and "boxed out" by the largest and best capitalized businesses. We should know by now that established companies are not the most fertile sources for change, evolution and optimization of new ideas and new solutions. Instead, they are invested in the status quo and often actively oppose better ideas, products, and services. Selling bandwidth to the highest bidder will distort all downstream markets and actually prevent the benefits of free and competitive end markets. Instead, net neutrality should be truly neutral as a function of viewing data communication infrastructure and services as a basic utility as we transcend obsolete concepts of "enhanced services" and associated differentiation from POTS - plain old telephone service.