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The future competitiveness of the United States of America relies on competition; this requires an open internet: an internet in which all traffic is treated the same. Forcing entities to pay for a "fast lane" will stifle innovation. Since no actual "fast lane" will be created the only alternative is to slow all other traffic. The clear choice to maintain and ensure the future of an open and competitive internet is to reclassify internet service providers (ISPs) as common carriers. The current efforts by ISPs (Cox, Time Warner, Comcast, etc.) to move away from being a neutral carrier is little more than extortion.