This proposed "fast lane" is a farce for large internet providers to increase their revenues using their status as near monopolies. If ISPs are not treated as common carriers, they will be able to discriminate between content that they are paid to deliver to customers, and because of the breadth of their sphere of economic control, consumers will not be able to merely switch to an ISP that provides better service. I am against the limiting of freedom on the internet for a variety of reasons.

1. Internet is one of the greatest facilitators of education in the world. I firmly believe that education is a right, a net good which should be encouraged, regardless of corporate desires. Education has done nothing but empower society as a whole to be more efficient, tolerant, creative, and cooperative. Education comes in many different forms and includes the mediums of art that have found a place on the internet. Limiting this creative content will do nothing for the open discourse and education our world so desperately needs.

2. It favors large corporations over consumers, content creators, etc. Corporations are not people, they are the manifestation of services provided for the benefit of people in exchange for monetary compensation. The government cannot favor business over individuals; it does nothing but encourage corporate greed at the expense of society. For example, the Monsanto company has used its power to make its corporate prerogative a priority over environmental issues facing the entire globe due in part to their policies. This brand of politics should not be what defines our government policy.

3. It is representative of a larger problem with ISPs today. When the two largest ISPs are allowed to merge and employ policies such as this, they are essentially a monopoly, and that is not fair to consumers, nor does it encourage innovation. Unregulated capitalism leads to the formation of monopolies. That's not an opinion, that's a conclusion drawn from economic science and common historical anecdote, and if we allow ISPs to do that, we will be allowing the very thing we have fought so hard against since the Gilded Age. History has taught us that the road economics, political, and cultural success involves government regulation that protect people and their incredibly ability to communicate, not the profit motive of large corporations.

As a citizen of the United States, I join those that ask you to consider Internet Service Providers common carriers. Thank you.