

Members of the FCC,

I strongly oppose FCC Chairman Wheeler's current proposal to restructure the Internet. Please reinstate common carrier status to all Internet Service Providers (ISPs). We've paid for our internet access and website owners have paid to have their sites available. Don't allow internet providers to get away with charging more on top of the already inflated prices we pay.

The problem is that the proposal says that it's okay to discriminate against traffic if content providers don't pay the ISPs a "commercially reasonable" fee and Mr. chairman says that "behavior that harms consumers or competition will not be permitted," however any fee will risk harming both. In this day and age when anyone can create software and internet services on their own personal computer, any additional barrier to entry can and will harm competition. What's more, the mere existence of a standard that allows discrimination, by definition, violates the idea of net neutrality. Net neutrality is an absolute concept stating that all traffic is to be treated equally without allowing larger companies to pay their way ahead of all competition and tip the scales against open competition.

A tiered-Internet changes the competitive field by giving preference to better funded organizations - it is a slap in the face to the free market and to business competition. FCC Chairman Wheeler's proposal also opens up small businesses to exorbitant charges from ISPs for a service we all desperately need to remain viable. I oppose this proposal in the strongest possible terms for the sake of business competition, consumer choice and the millions of workers employed by small businesses who will be negatively impacted as larger companies squeeze their smaller competitors out of the market. An open internet is the engine of our economy and must be protected. Protect the open internet and reinstate common carrier status for ISPs.