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ISPs should be classified as common carriers. The FCC must have proper regulatory authority to protect consumer access to the essential communication services they provide.

The existing regulatory approach permits ISPs to charge consumers twice, once for access, and again as content is passed to the consumer by content providers. They are able to do this because they already have monopoly status.

The existing regulatory approach stifles free speech and the growth of new businesses which rely on equal access to common communication services. The FCC is, in effect, allowing ISPs to pick market winners and losers, denying the public the benefits of an open and vibrant economy.

This is clear in the level of service currently provided, which is slower, less innovative, and more costly than the rest of the world. The existing regulatory and statutory protections enjoyed by ISPs have failed to deliver on promises of innovation and increased competition.

Indeed, ISPs today benefit from protections afforded to utilities, while simultaneously taking advantage of their monopoly status to restrict competition and charge consumers unfairly.

I therefore strongly urge the FCC to classify ISPs as common carriers.