

May 21, 2014

Eric S. Gillard
135 Pine Chapel Road, Apt. 5
Hampton, VA 23666-4268

Dear Commissioner Wheeler,

Net neutrality, the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) treat all data that travels over their networks equally, is important to me because without it, as a journalist and an uncle to three nieces and nephews in school, I am concerned about their future education with a tiered and price-preferred system.

ISPs like Verizon, AT&T, Comcast, Cox and others could have too much power, more so than they already have, to determine the Internet experience for me, my family and others by providing better access to some and little or none to others.

The so-called "fast lanes" of the Internet that have been proposed by the FCC concern me because ISPs are the gatekeepers to Internet access, for public and private use, and they could restrict online use beyond a reasonable and fair scope. In addition, new and innovative services could be stifled or die due to a slowed Internet, harming our already fragile national and world economy.

Free and open Internet is important to me because I need to know that there will not be barriers to entry for the new ideas and services that are vital to the survival of the online marketplace of business and ideas. The Internet is a business in a sense, so growth is essential to the health and survival of any business. Without growth, as you certainly know, Mr. Wheeler, any business will wither and die.

Mr. Wheeler, please don't let your venture capitalist and lobbyist background blind you to the fact that the Internet is for everyone, not the rich and powerful corporations that are slowly becoming another form of big government intrusion. The FCC should be passing rules that favor consumers, not businesses. There is absolutely no positive side to killing net neutrality -- none. It will completely destroy the Internet's usefulness and expansion in the short and long term.

Regards,

Eric S. Gillard