

The rules recently proposed by the FCC represent an unreasonable and untenable “solution” to the threat posed by the oligopoly that is telecommunications in the United States. The use of purposely vague language in rules meant to protect the openness and accessibility of the Internet weakens the commission’s regulatory position by offering case-by-case answers to challenges by net neutrality activists and telecom companies alike; and offers nothing but the promise of “reasonable” opinions on individual matters, rather than the implementation of solid, idealized consumer-oriented tenets. This approach cannot be tenable in the long-term as commissioner appointments vary with the presidential administration.

The FCC must assert itself as the premier Internet regulatory authority in the United States. Until now, the FCC has been a reluctant participant in internet regulation seemingly seeking to make as few waves as possible—most likely to avoid the inevitable massive legal battle with telecom companies over the citizens’ right to be protected in their access to the internet as a basic communications utility. Know that this battle is coming whether you like it or not. The American public WILL notice when their internet service is degraded due to a lack of competition in the marketplace, when their cable and internet service fees climb faster and faster (my rates already grow by one or two dollars per month); and, all the while, receiving notice of the execution of eminent domain granted to telecom companies to lay outdated copper lines.

SIDE NOTE: Let us not forget that the spectrum leased to telecom companies for wireless communications is the property of the American people and should be used in the public interest and bring with its lease strict requirements on its use and strict protections of net neutrality.

During your most recent public hearing, a couple of your commissioners expressed their view that the implementation of more strict regulation on Internet service providers would “stifle innovation.” These statements are false on two accounts. First, the stifling of innovation would require that innovation is presently occurring. This is not the case in the United States. Studies have shown that year-over-year investment in Internet infrastructure has SLOWED since the conversion from a dial-up based model to a cable-internet based model. While cable Internet does offer faster speeds than dial-up Internet, the rate of innovation has slowed; allowing modern countries around the world to pass us by with regards to implementation of newer technologies such as fiber-optic cable and the massive speeds of which it is capable. Second, the faster speeds achieved and promoted by increased competition in the marketplace, brought about by implementation of rules making ISPs “dumb pipes,” allow for a much more rich environment of innovation in every aspect of modern society—especially communications.

It is clear to me that some of your commissioners fail to understand the nature of monopolies and oligopolies and the value of rules established to prevent their pillaging of Americans’ pocketbooks by allowing or even encouraging communications price gouging. These individuals clearly are not working in the

public interest as their mandate dictates. The FCC's refusal to act forcefully in the public interest has resulted in a country held hostage by Internet gatekeepers (ISPs) ransoming their customers to internet services that must now pay "peering" agreements in order to gain access to satisfactory speeds. SPEEDS THAT ARE LESS THAN 100TH THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH STRONG NET NEUTRALITY REGULATIONS. It is clear that, contrary to the claims of US telecom providers, and misguided commissioners, net neutrality PROMOTES innovation within the marketplace by increasing competition.

Please do what is right for the taxpayers of this country by protecting their rights to have the government act in their interests. Impose Title II regulation on internet service providers and preserve the internet as a bastion of innovation, communication, and information.