

My name is Michael Christiansen and I am writing in opposition to the “Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet” which I understand does nothing to prevent and so will allow broadband carriers to create a tiered service levels or “fast lanes”. In general, I support a truly open Internet where any and all information sources (traffic) are treated equally. Creating tiered levels of service will limit the ability of minorities to present their opinions to the public. I don’t think that it is too strong to state that tiered service will destroy Internet as an instrument of democracy. For example, tiered service will make it difficult for startups to compete with established media and web-service providers.

I do not believe that Verizon, Time Warner, and other ISP’s are seeking to ‘destroy the Internet’ but are looking for means of increasing their revenues. However, this is a situation where these corporation’s natural desire to increase profits is in direct conflict with the public’s interests and isn’t it the FCC’s mission to protect the public’s interests? This protection should come in the form of proper regulation of these carriers. In this I agree with those that propose that broadband carriers should be classified as common carriers and regulated to ensure a truly open Internet.

Dr. Michael Christiansen