

I would like to express my disappointment about the recent rulings of the classification of broadband providers which, essential, prevent the FCC to enforce regulation of giant cable/telecommunication companies from infringing on “net neutrality” and the seeming inability of the FCC to reclassify Internet service providers (ISPs) as telecommunications due to semantics on what service is actually provided by these broadband conglomerates. The ability to over-commodify a service that already requires a fee-based service by ISPs is completely unacceptable and wholly unnecessary. With companies like Comcast buying out Time Warner, we consumers are stuck with cable/ISP monopolies that will certainly not improve the infrastructure or service of an already existing and thriving commodity such as the internet. Furthermore, with terms of service and conditions associated with Internet use by consumers provided by these companies, it is a real possibility that these companies can dictate/censor content to consumers with no real recourse by the consumer. If the FCC does not reclassify ISPs as telecommunications (and hence fall under the regulation of the FCC), the resulting “tiering” of Internet service by ISPs will only result in exasperation by the consumers and result in undue tension. Most reasonable media sources also posit that ISPs can essentially hinder (or eliminate) growth of small and medium sized companies. If ISPs can proceed in an unregulated fashion, it will certainly strangle the entrepreneurial spirit the free market economy and this country was founded on. People within President Obama’s own Cabinet, such as Secretary of State John Kerry, have publically stated that access to the Internet and free of censorship is a “basic human right”. A sentiment expressed by the President’s own wife, Michelle Obama. As a Democrat, I find it remarkably unsettling the White House has, yet again, not stepped up for what’s right for the citizens of the United States and that Democrats within the FCC, including Chairman Wheeler, voting to allow “commercially reasonable” deals with ISPs, regarding Net Neutrality, especially when you consider that Federal regulation fits comfortably in the Democratic ideological “wheelhouse”. In summary, I urge the FCC and Chairman Wheeler to reconsider the classification of ISPs as telecommunications to allow for the Federal regulation of ISPs and prevent ISPs from ending Net Neutrality.