

The internet is the truest form of freedom we have in US and has been the source of innovation and job growth for the past 25 years.

It is irresponsible to allow the cable company monopolies to continue colluding on pricing and threaten the very way the internet works. Despite rhetoric from both the cable companies and the FCC, there is no real competition for high speed broadband cable. DSL and satellite cannot be considered competitive when their speeds do not even come close to what many would consider broadband. That is the narrative and illusion of choice the cable companies and their mouthpiece (Tom Wheeler, former head of the NCTA Lobby) would like everyone to believe. Mr. Wheeler's appointment to the FCC is conflict of interest, as he is clearly representing the cable monopolies. Tom Wheeler should be removed from the FCC.

Mr. Wheeler's proposal for "fast lanes" is exactly what the cable monopolies have been working towards for years. This will be an additional revenue stream from both producers and consumers of content. Both parties are already paying for their connection to the internet. Today all lanes are "fast lanes". Allowing the cable monopoly to create slow lanes and require a premium payment for the speeds we get today fundamentally changes the way the internet works. There is no value being added with this proposal to anyone except for the cable monopoly to gain a new revenue stream. In addition, the political double speak of "fast lanes" needs to end as the only thing that will be created are slow lanes.

The incredible economic power and overall value to society of the internet has never been rivaled in history. The cable monopolies cannot be allowed to discriminate internet traffic and decide which of the lanes it is allowed to travel. The open and equal nature of the internet has driven innovation and given small startups an even playing field to compete with incumbents in all industries. It is obvious how this fosters competition, growth and benefits both the consumer and society as a whole. This proposal threatens the ability for small startups to compete with incumbents.

As for freedom, the internet has driven freedom of information and speech in no way the world has ever seen. Anyone can post to the internet today without having to pay the cable monopolies to ensure their post will be delivered when requested. The cable monopolies would like to turn the internet into a tiered system with bundles just like the cable television is sold today. They do not want consumers to have any real choice and they want to continue to be the gatekeepers to the media society views. This proposal will limit consumers choices and restrict the internet to those who can afford to pay.

The solution is simple. First Tom Wheeler (paid shill for the cable monopolies) must go. Secondly, internet access must be reclassified as Title 2 common carrier. Anything short of this is a threat to freedom, choice and innovation.