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Received & Inspected

May 4, 2014

From: Anthony Panetta

To: Chairman Tom Wheeler & the FCC Leaders

Subject: Proposed Internet "Fast Lane" FCC Rules

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

Mr. Tom Wheeler & FCC Commission,

I am writing to you today as a computer science student at Cornell University. I have an acute understanding of the current situation with the proposed "internet fast lane" rules and I am aware of the technical and circumstantial details around the recent Netflix/Comcast event.

I must say that I was not expecting this from your office at this time; the proposed rules do not make sense and do not follow the FCC charter. In 2009 the FCC drafted similar rules because of the events surrounding Comcast's arbitrary throttling of peer-to-peer traffic, and the FCC lost their case when the DC district court ruled that Comcast is classified as an "information service." Recently, the FCC finished writing the "Open Internet" rules and once again the FCC was sued, this time by Verizon. The FCC lost their case again - in both of these cases the court urged the FCC to *reclassify these internet service providers as a Title II communications company* under the 1996 Telecommunications Act if the office of the FCC was serious about drafting rules that these companies must follow.

I'm aware that Title II has some stringent rules and that these rules may not all be applicable to internet service providers like Verizon, AT&T, and Comcast. However, I would remind you that the FCC has the power of forbearance; the office can choose which rules will be imposed. Were these internet service providers classified as "telecommunications services", as the FCC has been encouraged to do by these two court cases, then it does not have to enforce *all* the rules under Title II.

Certainly I have been surprised by these proposed "internet fast lane" rules. They are not substantially different than the rules put forth in the previous two failed court cases. Also, I would not expect to entertain such a proposal unless and until **the FCC reclassifies these ISPs as telecommunications companies under Title II.**

In point of fact, Comcast has already negotiated a "fast lane" deal with Netflix. However, Comcast is selling service tiers to customers that specify a speed (e.g. 50 megabits per second) and a data cap (250 gigabytes per month, as specified in the terms-of-service). As a customer of Comcast, one should be able to elect to use some or all of the capacity he or she has purchased on Netflix services.

I am confident that should the FCC investigate the particulars of Comcast's activities in this case, they would have an open-and-shut antitrust case. This is exactly the same type of abusive conduct that the FCC tried to deal with in the court cases in 2009 and again with Verizon more recently.

**Please, halt what is being done with these "internet fast lane" rules, and simply reclassify internet service providers as telecommunications companies under Title II of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. It is a faster, simpler, and more effective way to accomplish your goals.**

Sincerely,

*Anthony Panetta*

Anthony Panetta

4505 Clara Dickson Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853

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MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

**George Tillmann**  
14 Red Hawk Road North  
Colts Neck, New Jersey 07722  
732-946-3648

May 1, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Mr. Chairman,

I am very concerned that the Federal Communications Commission is considering changing its position on network neutrality.

The Internet is a public trust paid for by U.S. taxpayers. Its genius is its equal access for all. As an information technology professional I know, and history has shown, that the great network system we have today would not have been possible if controlled by a few large companies. Prior to the Internet users had to subscribe to private networks for access to remote resources. It was only after the U.S. government turned the publically funded Internet over to the people that a global worldwide network came into being. The centerpiece of the Internet this that all data packets are treated equally. Without that ground-breaking position we would not have the Internet we have today. Now you are considering destroying it - ripping the soul out of one of the greatest advances of the twentieth-century.

Surveys show that informed people are in favor of network neutrality by a large margin. Opposing the majority of U.S. citizens are a few large companies who want to wring some additional profit out of the network. And who will pay for that additional profit? - the consumer of course - the same people who footed the bill to build this equal access network in the first place.

Please, do not cave in to the special interests. We need courage from the FCC Commissioners. We need the FCC to reject this anti-democratic destruction of a national treasure.

Sincerely,



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MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

May 5th

Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Wheeler,

In January, you praised the one million Americans who voiced their support for net neutrality. Imagine the dismay those citizens felt when you recently unveiled your proposal to abandon net neutrality in favor of letting the telecom giants select winners and losers online and discriminate against online content and applications. Your proposal is absolutely unacceptable! The Internet which Americans have come to rely on has provided citizens with a democratic medium of thought and communication available to all on an equal footing. Owners of local networks should not be able to block or degrade traffic based on the identity of the user or the type of application solely to favor their interests.

Michael J. Copps, former commissioner of the FCC, summed up the current dilemma when he said, "Tollbooths and gatekeepers are the exact opposite of what the Internet is all about," He condemned the the approach you apparently favor by declaring, "Down that route consumers can count on paying more and getting less — less content, fewer services and reduced innovation."

We urge you to scrap your proposed rules and instead restore the principle of online nondiscrimination by reclassifying broadband as a telecommunications service.

Sincerely,

*Hugh Kiger*  
*B. J. Novitski*

Hugh Kiger

B.J. Novitski

Eugene, Oregon



Hugh Kiger  
961 Taylor St.  
Eugene, OR 97402

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4427 Volta Pl NW  
Washington, DC 20007

Received & Inspected

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

4 May 2014

Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am not happy with the suggestions that the long-standing policy of net neutrality is about to be sacrificed to the commercial interests of large companies. The idea that my inter-net supplier might slow my e-mail or web searches so that he can receive payments for speeding the service of elite customers is repugnant and hostile to the values we place on free speech and democracy.

When I am driving, I pull over for emergency vehicles, but I don't pull over for those who drive BMWs, Mercedes, Bentleys or other luxury vehicle. If a traffic cop were to show preference to a luxury vehicle over mine, I'd be howling to the police chief and city council.

Net neutrality is a very American idea. Please don't surrender it to craven commercial interests. Cable and inter-net providers are common carriers and should be regulated as such.

Yours truly,

  
William Bateson

14-28

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MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

May 4, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler,

Keep the internet equally open to all users.

Have the FCC treat the providers like the "Utility" companies that they are.

Please get them back under control and keep them there ...

Thank you



John Shepherd

John Shepherd  
5552 Perryville Rd  
Danville KY 40422

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Alex Rudinski  
518 Burnham Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Received & Inspected

Chairman Tom Wheeler  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Tom Wheeler and Commissioners:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. On behalf of my fellow voters, I want to take this opportunity to talk about the growing assault on net neutrality from companies like Comcast. The past months have held horrible news for openness on the Internet, and as one of the last free venues for public expression, I find myself compelled to defend it.

I understand the concerns Comcast and other have about the ballooning cost of infrastructure as stream video services like Netflix become ever more popular, and that they feel those services that use the most bandwidth (like Netflix) should pay for the infrastructure upgrades to deliver their product smoothly. However, this is nothing short of extortion. ISPs like Comcast and AT&T are in the business of providing a service based on infrastructure, which consumer pay dearly for – well more than consumers in other countries, as you well know. It is the ISPs' responsibility to build the equipment required to deliver that service, and Comcast can certainly take some of the \$6.2 billion in profit it earned in FY 2013 and put it towards upgrades. What they're doing now is the equivalent of coming down to your shop with a few muscles guys and saying that this is such a nice Internet, and it would be a shame if something happened to it.

I understand this is but one aspect of the current battle, but it is currently the most visible. ISPs need to be reclassified as common carriers, but we also must go further, or we risk dropping too far down the rabbit hole, never to return.

Chairman Wheeler, I beseech you to stand up to these bullies and show the courage to defend the neutrality of the Internet against this attack and the many others that are sure to come. This is an issue that matters deeply to many young people, and the users of the Internet have shown their strength in the past. I reserve my vitriol for that time, but please do not mistake the tone of this letter for apathy. This is one of the most important issues regarding the future of communications today, and it is not one I intend to stay on the sidelines for. I hope you won't either. Thank you.

Best,

  
Alex Rudinski

Received & Inspected

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

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120 E Beaver Ave. #607

State College Pa 16801

Thursday Afternoon May 1st  
2014

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear Tom Wheeler,

I enclose the enclosed NEW YORK TIMES

EDITORIAL. PLEASE RECLASSIFY BROADBAND

AS A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, AND

DON'T CREATE A FAST LANE. FOR THIS

CAVES IN TO THE PROFIT-TAKING OF

VERIZON AND COMCAST AND WRECKS

THE WONDERFUL DEMOCRACY OF THE

# The New York Times

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Publisher 1896-1935

ARTHUR BASS SULZBERGER  
Publisher 1935-1961

ORVILLE E. DRYFOOS  
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## Creating a Two-Speed Internet

Drilling traffic on the Internet into fast and slow lanes is exactly what the Federal Communications Commission would do under proposed regulations, unveiled this week. And no amount of assurances about keeping competition alive will change that fact.

Tom Wheeler, the chairman of the commission, is proposing that broadband providers — phone and cable companies — be allowed to charge fees for faster delivery of video and other data to consumers.

This would be a totally new approach to Internet service. It would essentially give broadband companies the right to create the digital equivalent of high-occupancy vehicle lanes for content providers, like Netflix and Amazon, wealthy enough to pay a toll.

In this new world, smaller content providers and start-ups that could not pay for preferential treatment might not be able to compete because their delivery speeds would be much slower. And consumers will pay more because any company that agrees to strike deals with phone and cable companies will pass on those costs to their users.

The F.C.C. proposal claims to protect competition by requiring that any deal between a broadband company and a content provider be “commercially reasonable.” But figuring out what is reasonable will be very difficult and the commission will struggle to enforce that standard. The rules would also prohibit broadband companies from blocking content by, for example, making it impossible for users to access a service like Skype that competes with their own products.

If a majority of the five-member commission approves the proposal next month, it will be open to public comment before being finalized later this year. If adopted, this measure would be a huge victory for phone and cable companies who have long argued that services like Google, which owns YouTube, that transmit a lot of data should pay fees for the use of broadband networks.

But the viability of these networks are based on decades of public investment in the Internet, the companies’ use of public rights of way, and, in the case of some compa-

nies, a long government-sanctioned monopoly over telephone service. Public interest groups like the American Civil Liberties Union and Public Knowledge have long opposed the creation of two-tiered Internet services because it offers no public benefit, but would stifle innovation.

Officials at the F.C.C. said on Thursday that the proposed rule is the fastest way for the commission to respond to a January ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that struck down previous rules barring broadband companies from blocking content or engaging in “unjust and unreasonable discrimination.”

They argue that under the “commercially reasonable” standard, the agency will be able to review deals to make sure phone and cable companies do not abuse their market power (in most markets, there are only one or two service providers). But the proposal does not meaningfully prevent discrimination; it is largely a capitulation to the broadband industry.

The commission should decide in a wholly different direction. It should decide to classify broadband as a tele-communications service, which would allow it to prohibit companies like Verizon and Comcast from engaging in unjust or unreasonable discrimination. (The F.C.C. classified broadband as a lightly-regulated information service during the George W. Bush administration.)

Mr. Wheeler is seeking public comment on this option, but he is not in favor of it. Even though the appeals court has said the F.C.C. has authority to reclassify broadband, the agency has not done so because phone and cable companies, along with their mostly Republican supporters in Congress, strongly oppose it.

The Internet has been a boon to the economy and to free speech because it is not divided into tiers and is open to everybody in the same way.

In 2007, President Obama said one of the best things about the Internet “is that there is this incredible equality there” and charging “different rates to different websites” would destroy that principle. The proposal from Mr. Wheeler, an Obama appointee, would suggest that

MAY 12 2014

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FCC Mail Room

Peter Shrock  
116 East Thomas Street  
Apartment 7  
Hammond, LA 70401

May 2, 2014

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Attn: Chairman Tom Wheeler

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes to Internet access. In particular, I oppose the proposal to allow content companies to pay Internet service providers for special access to consumers.

The proposed rules would mandate that broadband providers could give some traffic preferential treatment only as long as such arrangements are available on "commercially reasonable" terms for all interested content companies. However, such protections are likely to be wholly inadequate to guarantee that Internet users will be able to access with reasonable convenience any Web sites that are not run by well-capitalized concerns (e.g., Google, Microsoft, Netflix). Although ISP's won't be allowed to deliberately slow down traffic from specific sites, the proposed rules allow providers to speed up service from others—amounting in practice to a slowdown for those sites who can't pay.

The proposed rules do a disservice to people who obtain information from the Internet, and also those people who want to provide information on the Web but are not connected with well-financed supporters. Most crucially, abandoning net neutrality threatens the ability of the Internet to function as a free-speech medium for the expression of unfamiliar or novel viewpoints.

For all these reasons, I urge that the FCC reconsider the proposed changes to Internet access to do everything possible to maintain net neutrality.

Sincerely,

*Peter Shrock*

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14-28

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8566 Powers Pl  
Chanhassen, MN 55317  
April 26, 2014

Received & Inspected

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Thomas Wheeler  
FCC  
445 12 st. SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Chairman Wheeler:

It is of great concern to me that consideration might be given to abandoning Net Neutrality. This would be a tremendous blow to our democracy, and I believe you could never live down such a decision. No matter what you may be offered by anyone to support changing our free society's Net Neutrality, it could never be enough. AND IT WOULD BE IMMORAL TO DO SO. The power in your hands to control and maintain Net Neutrality is overwhelming, but you can do the right thing. I URGE YOU TO WHOLE-HEARTEDLY OPPOSE ANYONE'S ACTIONS TO CHANGE OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF NET NEUTRALITY.

THANK YOU FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING NO MATTER WHAT IS CARROTTED TO YOU! (Abundance is overblown anyway.)

Audrey Kramer



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 25, 2014

Received & Inspected

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

**From:** Jerome VanAsche

**To:** Chairman Tom Wheeler & the FCC Leaders

**Subject:** Proposed Internet "Fast Lane" FCC Rules

Mr. Tom Wheeler & FCC Commission,

I am writing to you today as a concerned Internet user. I have an acute understanding of the current situation with the proposed "internet fast lane" rules and I am aware of the technical and circumstantial details around the recent Netflix/Comcast event.

I must say that I was not expecting this from your office at this time; the proposed rules do not make sense and do not follow the FCC charter. In 2009 the FCC drafted similar rules because of the events surrounding Comcast and Comcast's arbitrary throttling of peer-to-peer traffic; in that case the FCC lost their case when the DC district court ruled that Comcast is classified as an "information service." Recently, the FCC finished writing the "Open Internet" rules and once again the FCC was sued by Verizon. The FCC lost their case once again – in both of these cases the court urged the FCC to reclassify these ISPs as a Title II communications company if the office of the FCC was serious about drafting rules that these companies must follow.

I'm aware that Title II has some stringent rules and that these rules may not all be applicable to internet service providers like Verizon, AT&T and Comcast. However, I would remind you that the FCC has the power of forbearance; the office can choose what rules will be imposed. Were these internet service providers classified as "telecommunications services", *as the FCC has been encouraged to do by these two court cases*, then it does not have to enforce *all* the rules under Title II.

Certainly I have been surprised by these proposed "internet fast lane" rules; they were entirely unexpected at this time. I do not see how they are substantially different than the rules put forth in the previous two failed court cases. Also, I would not expect to entertain such a proposal unless and **until the FCC reclassifies these ISPs as telecommunications companies under Title II.**

In point of fact, Comcast has already negotiated a "fast lane" deal with Netflix. However, Comcast is selling service tiers to customers that specify a speed (e.g. 50 megabits per second) and a byte cap (250 gigabytes, as specified in the terms-of-service). As a customer of Comcast, I may elect to use some or

all of the capacity I have been allocated on Netflix services.

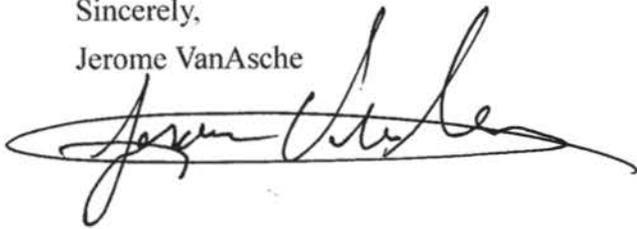
I am confident that should the FCC investigate the particulars of Comcast's activities in this case, they would have an open-and-shut antitrust case. To use a telephone analogy, this is no different than a cellular telephone provider charging a call recipient "extra" to "help prevent the call from being dropped."

This is exactly the same type of abusive conduct that the FCC tried to deal with in the court cases in 2009 and again with Verizon more recently.

**Please, halt what is being done with these "internet fast lane" rules, and simply reclassify internet service providers as Telecommunications companies under Title II of the 1996 telecommunications act. It is a faster, simpler, and more effective way to accomplish your goals.**

Sincerely,

Jerome VanAsche

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome VanAsche", written over a horizontal line.

15597 Sims Rd.  
Canehill, AR 72717

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14-28

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**I oppose the conversion of our open internet into a corporately tiered system.**

Received & Inspected  
MAY 12 2014  
FCC Mail Room

**IT'S time someone take a stand with the middle class against the Mutual Admiration Society of Narcissistic Corporate Chief Executive Officers!**

**Corporations are in a competition with each other to see which one will drain the last drop of blood out of the last middle class man standing!**

James Hagen  
13 S Mesa Loop  
Raton, NM 87740-9770

James Hagen  
13 S Mesa Lp  
Raton N.M. 87740

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MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

1121 Clover Lane  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Thomas E. Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

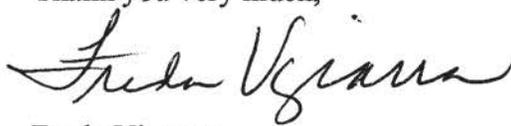
Dear Chairman Wheeler,

This is the first letter I have ever written to anyone in Washington but I feel the pending decision regarding free access to the Internet demands my attention. Simply stated, I am convinced that the FCC needs to use all of its regulatory powers to protect free access to the Internet. In order to ensure the FCC has those powers, then the Internet needs to be treated like a public utility.

I am sending a letter rather than an email to emphasize my vehement enthusiasm for the need for net neutrality. I do not want telecom companies to be able to control unrestricted, the content or speed of what comes into my home.

Please look to the future and protect it. Please use your powers to do the right thing for all of us and not succumb to the requests of the powerful telecom giants.

Thank you very much,



Freda Vizcarra

14-28  
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Received & Inspected

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

Michael Lindemuth  
9201 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
May 5, 2014

Tom Wheeler  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

I am writing to you concerning the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed new rules for Internet Service Providers (ISPs). ISPs have benefitted the last two decades from lax rules. In many areas, consumers only have one or two choices for ISPs. Just like local power and water companies, ISPs have a monopoly in most markets. The reality is that **Internet has become a utility**.

When the power company charges for power, they give one flat rate for the number of watts I consume. I don't pay different rates for a light bulb over a TV. Why should an ISP be able to charge differently for Netflix or Wikipedia? In the end, I'm paying for a certain number of binary digits (bits) per month.

I pay for power by the watt, water by the gallon, and information by the bit. Each of which is run to my house via local utilities. I accept the first two monopolies because there is regulation around them. Like most homes in America though, my bits come from an unregulated cartel composed of one cable company and one phone company. Mergers like Time Warner and Comcast further exacerbate this issue on a nationwide scale. This is unacceptable.

Giving ISPs power over charging different rates for different sites is even more dangerous than allowing other utilities to charge different rates. Imagine a politically connected ISP. One company could control what constituents see and hear based on how they decide to charge for different portions of the Internet. The free flow of information is the cornerstone of a democracy.

The Internet is necessary for researching innovative ideas, collaborating with individuals across the world, and participating in government (local, national, and international). Sure, it's not water; Humanity can survive without it. But can it thrive? Can we improve our nation and lead the world? According to NetIndex we are already ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in the world for average Internet Speed. It is incredible how far a democratic country that funded the initial development of the Internet has fallen so far behind.

Tom Wheeler  
May 5, 2014  
Page 2

The fix for this issue is two-fold:

1. **The FCC should treat ISPs as common carriers.** Allow other companies to lease infrastructure placed on public easements and offer competing services.
2. **Fight for Net Neutrality.** Do not allow ISPs to charge different rates for different content. With the Internet, I pay for bits not content.

You should not settle for any less. I look forward to the draft rules public release around mid-May. Disband these utility cartels.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Michael Lindemuth

More Information:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/24/technology/fcc-new-net-neutrality-rules.html>

<http://www.netindex.com/download/allcountries/>

14-28

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**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

Washington County, New York  
May 5, 2014

Mr. Thomas Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

MAY 12 2014

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As you know, it was British Scientist Mr. Tim Berners-Lee, who invented The World Wide Web. And, of course, it was the American Public, the America Tax Payer, who funded the development of the Internet. At a point in its early history, it was offered to the Cable Companies and to the Telecommunications Corporations, all who declined it. But before long there was a furious scramble for ownership of what had become the most open, the freest, and the most democratic means of information exchange and communication in human history. People had not even stopped to think that insidiously, every keystroke they made, would be monitored by commercial enterprises for profit, and by governmental institutions for purposes of spying and social control. The shock has been palatable. The betrayal of the public trust has been unforgivable.

The inventor of the World Wide Web believes an online Magna Carta is needed to protect and enshrine the independence of the medium he created, and the rights of its users worldwide. That rules are urgently needed to protect an 'open, neutral system'. Mr. Berners-Lee has stated that what we need is a 'Global Constitution - a Bill of Rights, without which we cannot have open government, good democracy, good healthcare, connected communities, and diversity of culture'. But these sorts of things are anathema to the kind of corporatism and capitalism we have today, and even to governments. The last thing they want is openness to new ideas and information, neutrality in the evaluation of information and issues that confront us, open government in which people may come to have as much influence as lobbyists, huge diversity of information and opinion, and actual democracy where it becomes the general good, the greater good, rather than corporate advantage, which gains a foothold.

You, Mr. Wheeler, represent very well the corporate entities wishing to undermine competition, and secure profit and advantage, and of governments who consider their own citizens a threat to their power and authority.

You do not, though, represent what the Internet was intended to be, and what people thought it had become, and what people want. You are on the wrong side of this enormously important issue. You are on the other side of what President Obama promised in 2007 when he said, hopefully not hypocritically:

"I will take a backseat to no one in my commitment to Network Neutrality, because once providers start to privilege some applications or websites over others, then the smaller voices get squeezed out, and we all lose. The Internet is perhaps the most open network in history, and we have to keep it that way."

Very possibly you will be well rewarded for your positions by the very organizations you efforts are intended to serve. But for many people you will be remembered forever as a representative of our government who put corporate interests way above the interests of the people.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Embser". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L" and "E".

Linda Embser

Embser  
P.O. Box 625  
Salem, NY 12865