

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet) GN Docket No. 14-28
)
)
)
)
)
)
)

COMMENTS OF Jordan Gore

School of Journalism & Mass Media
University of Idaho
875 Perimeter Drive MS 3178
Moscow, ID 83844-3178

Dated: June 6th, 2014

I. Introduction

Jordan Gore submits these comments in response to the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (“NPRM”) issued by the Wireline Competition Bureau on May 15, 2014 in the above-captioned docket on “Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet.” The NPRM had explained that this docket had been opened to address a fundamental question: What is the right public policy to ensure that the Internet remains open? In *Verizon v. FCC*¹, the D.C. Circuit remanded the Commission’s *Open Internet Order*,² and that decision vacated Open Internet rules that prohibited blocking and unreasonable discrimination by broadband Internet service providers.

As articulated in the NPRM, today there are no legally enforceable rules by which the Commission can stop broadband providers from limiting Internet openness. The D.C. Circuit’s recent decision in *Verizon* makes it clear that the Commission’s reliance on section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is inadequate to prevent undue discrimination by broadband Internet service providers. The Commission has a duty under the Act to prevent unreasonable discrimination online and on our public telecommunications network. In order for the Commission to fulfill its mandate to “make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States ... a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service,”³ the Commission must **Ensure that the power to control the Internet must come from the consumer.**

¹ *Verizon v. FCC*, No. 11-1355 (D.C. Cir. Jan. 14, 2014).

² *Preserving the Open Internet*, GN Docket No. 09-191, WC Docket No. 07-52, Report and Order, 25 FCC Rcd 17905 (2010) (“*Open Internet Order*”).

³ 47 U.S.C. § 151.

II. Statement The regulation of the Internet is something that has been debated since its creation. Larger companies have always felt the need to assert themselves in as many forms of communication as they possibly can, and such is the American way. However, the arrival of the Internet and its accelerated dominance over the country is a growing issue. In this day and age, humans have literally the answer to everything in their pockets. Now that Internet is mobile and accessible, it brings up many interesting questions. For one, who is paying for Internet services, and are you really getting what you pay for?

The FCC's regulation over large companies such as Comcast and Time Warner would not only hurt the Internet's usage, but the providers and consumers as well. By jacking up prices for broadband, it would create a ripple effect of higher costs and lower speeds. The Internet providers such as Comcast would be forced to pay more for higher speed connections, in turn causing them to raise costs for other large Internet companies such as Youtube and Netflix. It would force consumers to start paying more money if they want access to high speed broadband.

This is a very large problem, because in a day and age where the value of American currency is already at an all time low, people simply can't afford to keep shelling out dollars that they do not have. Free services like Youtube and Facebook may start requiring you to purchase an account, and pay a monthly fee in order to use the site. Other companies would be forced to do the same if they wanted to keep up with the competition. It would essentially create a cash flow funnel directly to the large, corporate companies that already have unlimited resources. The big fish get bigger and the rest are

just bottom feeders.

Another problem with the regulations would be that smaller businesses would have no chance at making money. If someone wanted to start a business, the amount they would need to pay in order to get off the ground and get known would be outrageous. The broadband they would receive wouldn't even be half the speed of the big companies, and there would be very little success in making a profit. Eventually they would get swallowed up and absorbed by the giants that can afford the costs of the best Internet service available, and in turn would lead to more regulations of content.

The issue of the FCC regulations would take some of the basic freedom away from the people. The beauty of the Internet is that you can see literally anything at any time. The control of content is something that the consumer should control, not the provider. By regulating content, it allows for greater control over the population. China, for example, is so tightly regulated, that most citizens aren't even aware of important recent Chinese history that is valuable to the nation.

It also gives an average person the chance for their voice to be heard. This comment for instance, could never have reached you without the use of the Internet. I wouldn't have been able to afford the cost for high speed broadband. Access to the Internet is one of the great things about America, in that almost everyone can do it for free. It allows anyone to get his or her voice out into the world and heard.

I don't believe this is necessarily a legal issue, but more of an ethical one. This country has always been about Capitalism, but it has also been about freedom of the people. That is where I believe the regulations should come from. The providers shouldn't be able to tell us what to see and how to use our Internet, but that power should

be made available. There needs to be a way for a person to regulate what comes into their own homes. If a consumer is paying for services, they should also be able to block whatever sites they don't want to see or have access to. Having children is a challenge these days because of the unlimited Internet access, and the parent needs to be able to regulate what sort of information they have access to, such as blocking pornographic sites or overly violent sites with violent messages.

III. Conclusion In conclusion, I believe the power to regulate and control the Internet needs to rest with the consumers. The Internet must remain free, because people can't afford to pay higher costs for fast speeds. Regulation is very important, but the real question lies with who is in charge of that regulation. It is necessary that we make the changes so that Internet can be used to its full potential. The time has come to put the power where it truly belongs: in the hands of the people.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ **Jordan J. Gore**

School of Journalism & Mass Media
University of Idaho
875 Perimeter Drive MS 3178
Moscow, ID 83844-3178

Dated: June 6th, 2014