

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington D.C. 20554

June 8, 2014

Dear Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners Clyburn, Rosenworcel, Pai, and O'Reilly:

A letter I just sent to the FCC - We, as a nation, stand on the precipice of where our future may be headed, and the choices we face may have devastating effects. In making such decisions, we should be looking to the impact upon available resources provided or restricted to the United States in the forthcoming years. Free enterprise without unreasonable restriction is one of the pillars holding up the American dream. We have stood strong as a country upon our pedestal of innovation and initiative. We have seen countless advances in science, art, and in products that better our lives on a daily scale. We stare into a sickness of countless greed and control that has been hindering our advances as a culture when compared to the vast majority of other countries across the globe. Studies by companies such as Ookla Speedtest show that "the U.S. ranks a shocking 31st in the world in terms of average download speeds. The leaders in the world are Hong Kong at 72.49 Mbps and Singapore on 58.84 Mbps. And America? Averaging speeds of 20.77 Mbps, it falls behind countries like Estonia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Uruguay.

Its upload speeds are even worse. Globally, the U.S. ranks 42nd with an average upload speed of 6.31 Mbps, behind Lesotho, Belarus, and Slovenia." (cited from [theweek.com](http://theweek.com))

It is a sad story to hear that the country that quite literally INVENTED THE INTERNET has fallen so far. The 1996 Telecommunications Act — which was meant to foster competition — allowed cable companies and telecoms companies to simply divide markets and merge their way to monopoly, allowing them to charge customers higher and higher prices without the kind of investment in internet infrastructure, especially in next-generation fiber optic connections, that is ongoing in other countries.

Susan Crawford, a professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, serving as President Barack Obama's Special Assistant for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (2009). and columnist for Bloomberg View told the BBC:

We deregulated high-speed internet access 10 years ago and since then we've seen enormous consolidation and monopolies... Left to their own devices, companies that supply internet access will charge high prices, because they face neither competition nor oversight. [BBC]

I suppose they were too busy devising a plan to take such limited service to begin with, and use it to impose further monopolistic practices for those with fatter wallets and bigger bank accounts. This is absurd.

Internet access at increasing speeds has become an imperative for education, healthcare, entertainment, and even completing activities required for day to day life. The Department of

motor vehicles employ patrons to use the resources provided on the internet whenever possible. Our own court systems encourage people to use internet access to meet the demands at a faster pace.

America's great invention, the world wide web, has now become a necessity within our culture. It is a utility, like electricity, allowing society to continue to progress and still meet the daily needs of our evergrowing national, and furthermore, global community. We can not allow broadband access and affordability to become a new form of segregation in America.

Restricting such a resource to some, while providing for others will slow the growth of original ideas that lead to some of America's greatest powerhouse companies. Apple, Google, Amazon, Microsoft, Netflix, Facebook, all of these media and tech giants were founded on the soil of a country that provided equal opportunities to build these companies from the ground up. Why would we find it appropriate to restrict such opportunities to future generations? Isn't it difficult enough to startup new companies within the confines of the status quo?

"Instead of permitting individualized bargaining and discrimination, the Commission's rules should protect users and Internet companies on both fixed and mobile platforms against blocking, discrimination, and paid prioritization, and should make the market for Internet services more transparent. The rules should provide certainty to all market participants and keep the costs of regulation low. Such rules are essential for the future of the Internet. This Commission should take the necessary steps to ensure that the Internet remains an open platform for speech and commerce so that America continues to lead the world in technology markets." - Letter recently sent to the FCC from over 50 top US media and tech companies with internet-based business.

I employ the FCC, as well as all-Americans, to stand behind the ideals of a country that was built upon the idea of fair markets, open and accessible information, and production through innovation that would lead our nation to create the very resource we discuss limiting. Let us realize that in order to continue to excel in the fields of technology, education, science, and entertainment, we should allow for those of future generations to be able to pursue these dreams with the resources that got us to where we are today.