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The internet is a cornerstone of modern life - from our day-to-day lives to businesses and jobs. We simply can't live without it, so it's time to declare that it is a public utility, not a private "service" Title II of the Communications Act of 1934 already grants the FCC the authority to declare the internet a public utility and provide greater regulation to the telecommunications industry. It's time for the FCC to exercise that authority.

Regulating the internet as a public utility would solve a lot of problems and it would allow the FCC to prohibit internet service providers from creating internet "fast lanes" and "slow lanes" to extort payments from companies like Netflix, which they just pass on to subscribers. I've already PAID Netflix once ... just as I PAID my ISP once. Why should ISPs be allowed to double-dip?

Allowing Internet service providers to purchase "fast lanes" could produce another cost that would be passed along to consumers. It would also enshrine the power of incumbent content providers as "Gatekeepers" at the expense of startups and smaller companies. In the past, the FCC has agreed that Internet "fast lanes" like those currently under consideration would threaten net neutrality. This proposed rule change would likely result in higher consumer costs and decreased private sector innovation

The FCC ALREADY has the power to declare that it is a public utility. It doesn't require a new telecommunications statute replete with time-consuming years of legislative horse-trading and special interest lobbying. This reclassification should have been done 10 years ago.