

My name is Coy Clark. I am a university student whose future is closely interwoven with broadband. That is because I am receiving my degree online at the University of Phoenix, and my education and career prospects depend on fast, accessible Internet service to reach my professors and classes. I am deeply troubled by reports that the Federal Communications Commission could soon pass over-the-top regulations that would deeply cut into these resources and put my future in jeopardy.

As broadband has spread rapidly nationwide, online learning has taken off alongside. Today, millions of students like myself across the country have embraced online learning, gravitating to a system that lets us learn at our own pace and in any location in the country. I have benefitted enormously from the new system, which allowed me to seamlessly continue my education even after making the move to Texas from the Midwest.

In this state, there are many initiatives working hard today to ensure that broadband access continues to expand, especially in the rural parts of the state. One such organization, [Connected Texas](#), says, “Technology, especially widespread access, use, and adoption of broadband, improves all areas of life.” This is exactly right. While broadband is critical to my higher education goals, it also plays an outsize role in the other parts of my life: healthcare, entertainment, and more.

The rapid growth of broadband in this country can be tied directly back to private investment. Over the past two decades, private companies have poured \$1.2 trillion into the construction of broadband infrastructure in every corner of the country. This astounding investment has in turn led to about 98 percent of Americans having access to broadband.

As a result, the Internet has played an increasingly vital role in our nation’s education system. Whether it is doing research, reading an e-textbook, or listening to virtual lectures, students – especially at the college level – rely on the Internet now more than ever.

Recent regulatory proposals, however, may threaten the Internet as we know it today and create a variety of unintended negative consequences. One such regulation, known as Title II, would classify the Internet as a utility and place unnecessary burdens on Internet and content providers – raising costs that will then be passed along to consumers. Title II would also stifle broadband investment, as companies would be cautious to invest millions into an over-regulated industry. Can you honestly imagine our Internet being regulated the way our roads are? The red tape involved for investors is unimaginable.

If we begin to stifle broadband innovation and investment today, the consequences may not be apparent immediately, but think of what may happen five or ten years down the road. Technology has evolved at an alarming pace over the last two decades; we don’t want the next generation of Americans to be stuck with twenty-first century broadband.

Decreased investment and higher costs would place a heavy burden on the online education system. Title II could incite usage-based rates, which would force students attending online universities to pay more in tuition as usage rates skyrocket for the educational institutions themselves. The progress we have made so far – for myself and millions of students like me all

across the country – could come to a screeching halt.

I urge the FCC to consider the unintended consequences of Title II before making any changes to broadband regulation. After all, broadband access and expansion has been thriving – why fix something that isn't broken?