

Dear FCC,

My name is Brian Brauchler and I live in Brook Park, OH.

Net neutrality, the principle that Internet service providers (ISPs) treat all data that travels over their networks equally, is important to me because without it ISPs could have too much power to determine my Internet experience by providing better access to some services but not others.

A pay-to-play Internet worries me because ISPs could act as the gatekeepers to their subscribers.

As the employee of a research university (and former student), I have been enjoying extremely high-speed internet for over a decade. My institution deployed campus-wide fiber-optic gigabit infrastructure in 2002, and I've seen first-hand how a super-fast and open connection it has allowed students and researchers to exchange data, stream video (including lectures), and launch new web-based business ventures that were not previously possible.

As a home cable internet subscriber, I am also keenly aware of the extreme lack of industry competition, the relatively sluggish rollout of improvements (e.g. DOCSIS 3.0), and the ever-rising prices of US residential access. I have now rented housing in 5 locations across my city and each time I was forced to choose from merely two broadband providers, each with extremely poor customer ratings (AT&T vs Time-Warner in most cases, Time-Warner vs Cox once). It is particularly frustrating to not have options when their customer service is consistently poor for years on end, but even worse when domestic prices here continue to climb while prices in the rest of the developed world drop.

I use my internet access for countless manners of communications -- not merely to contact friends and family, but for entertainment, shopping, banking, bills, and much more. As such I feel strongly that the Title II "Common Carrier" rules which apply to copper telephone carriers absolutely must apply as well to the broadband providers which transmit enormous quantities of the same bits and bytes.

However, I feel even more strongly that the history of corporate mega-mergers is grinding US internet competitiveness to a crawl. As a citizen I believe it is the duty of the FCC to enable greater communication options, not fewer (as would be the case with the proposed buyout of Time-Warner by Comcast). Beyond merely mandating that paying customers' bits are treated without discrimination (for the same reasons Title II was created in the first place), it is utterly crucial that the Commission break the oligopoly of incumbents who control the US broadband market, and make it possible for many small Internet Service Providers to either sell service over existing last-mile infrastructure or build out their own.

Further argument on that front can be found on Ars Technica, with a comparison to the more diverse market of the United Kingdom:
<http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2014/06/we-dont-need-net-neutrality-we-need-competition/>

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brian Brauchler