

To: FCC

Re: [14-28](#) Net Neutrality

The Internet should remain neutral to the companies that provide access to it. I urge you to reclassify broadband Internet providers as telecommunications services.

The US lags painfully behind other developed countries in terms of speed of Internet connection. Recent court rulings striking down the previous net neutrality laws (Verizon vs. FCC) have already had a negative effect on Internet connections in the US. My personal home Internet connection has had slower speeds, as noticed when watching video through streaming services such as Netflix or Amazon. Before the ruling, I rarely had instances of buffering or loading when watching a show or movie. Since the ruling, I rarely can watch an entire 30-minute show or longer movie without at least one 30-second interruption or more. If we don't keep the Internet neutral, this will become a more common occurrence, very likely getting worse. The only way to fix it will then be for customers to pay more money for the access they should be getting. The Internet can and should be a great equalizer and companies should not be allowed to charge other companies for premium access to data distribution.

Free speech also can be limited if broadband Internet providers are not reclassified as telecommunications services. There are already documented cases of companies restricting speech through their services, such as AT&T's censoring of a live Pearl Jam concert, Comcast's indiscriminate blocking of BitTorrent, and Verizon's censoring of NARAL in 2007. In order to truly have a free society, we need to have free speech, particularly on the Internet.

Again, I urge you to reclassify Internet providers as telecommunications services. Only then can we retain our rights to free speech and fast, reliable access to the Internet.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Stepien