

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners Clyburn, O'Rielly, Pai, and Rosenworcel, and all other FCC designees and interested parties,

The decision you now face has the potential to undermine the entire culture, spirit, and essential purpose of the internet as we know it. In a world becoming so intertwined with its online identity, there are several well-funded parties who would isolate and suppress large segments of their own customer base in the name of profit.

I work in IT, have years of education in computer science, and have spent large chunks of my life helping people approximately your age get online for the first time. I should not need to explain to the chairman of the FCC how influential and empowering the internet is for so many people in this country and around the world.

In addition to my technological background, I have also worked briefly with federal law enforcement, and volunteer my time with a fire department. In my time as a volunteer, I have never had the shame of presenting a patient with a bill prior to providing them with medical services, or asked them for a credit card while their home burned. I have never had to do this, because as the name implies, a public service exists for the benefit and protection of the public.

The proposed changes in your regulation of internet service providers have the same effect as the scenarios I have just described. Increasingly, average citizens are moving larger and larger pieces of their lives onto the internet. From daily communications in the form of email, social media, news, voice and video chat, to telecommuting, home security and automation, and VOIP service replacing aging telephones, the internet is becoming the central fixture in many citizens' work and home life. Life support systems, alarms, and the 911 phone call of a citizen in distress will all soon be routed through the internet. Are these the types of things the FCC wants to identify as second-class traffic? As we continue to rely on the availability of these services, we simply cannot allow this to be constrained by corporate greed. Limiting internet access to those with less to pay could severely disenfranchise large numbers of individual citizens and small businesses. Even larger companies will be impacted by a paywall that prevents their services from reaching their customers. A company should thrive based on the ingenuity and quality of its services, not on the amount it paid to its ISP.

Some of the largest players in the tech industry have already voiced their opposition to internet "fast lanes" and your proposed changes to ISP regulation. Many of these companies deliver the volume of content that would benefit from fast lanes, and yet have spoken out against them because the principle undermines the nature of our free and open internet. Many of these companies have also shown that you can provide your source code to anyone who wants it - free of charge - and still make unfathomable amounts of money. Such is the nature of a free and open internet. It is no secret where much of your background and support lies. But part of being a public servant and a representative of the people is doing what is best for those you serve. That is why I urge you to make this decision in the best interest of the majority, and uphold your promise to the American people.

Please, in the name of preserving the internet as an open and accessible form of expression for all citizens of the United States and of the world, do not succumb to pressure from the elite few who would benefit from internet fast lanes. Treat the internet as a utility and regulate it as a Title II common carrier. Do not allow ISPs to create fast lanes that cater only to the exorbitantly wealthy. Keep the internet open for business - it is doing just fine, and your ISPs are still making plenty of money.

Thank you for your time and consideration,