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Dear FCC,

My name is David Dixon and I live in Redondo Beach, CA.

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 users may have fewer options and a less diverse Internet.

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

As a "boomeranging" college student studying Economics and Sociology, giving ISPs the power to regulate content based upon such criteria as fee-for-exposure, fee-for-access, and fee-for-quality of service, would harm the ability of college students (who have come to rely on the internet) to conduct secondary research work. Not only would such stratification abrogate the spirit and ethos of the Internet (originally developed by academic institutions and the US Military as a means of providing open access to sharable information and the efficient communication of sensitive information), but it would restrict and narrow the field of content for students in academic institutions conducting research to disparate academic databases that are unconnected, rigid, insular, and largely unintuitive.

For the autodidact and average person, the ability to critically evaluate issues that concern them as citizens would be inhibited by a restricted field of content provided by websites and organizations that have the financial resources to obtain a de facto monopoly position. This effectively constitutes a narrowing of the freedom of expression and speech, and harms the body politic. Net neutrality is the only way to ensure that all citizens with access to the internet have an equal base of content and communication from which to make decisions that conduce to democratic action.

Sincerely,

David Dixon