



1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 190-322, Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

August 1, 2014

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The July 30, 2014 “deeply troubled” letter to Verizon Wireless illustrates the toxic atmosphere and problematic loss of perspective around the net neutrality controversy. The alarm generated by the Verizon Wireless announcement and larger upset around network discrimination questions ignores a basic fact - Verizon and other network operators expanded routine IP connectivity 1000 fold since 9.6Kbs modems in the 1990's.

The narrative takes on a different tone when put in context – first we will expand connectivity 1000 fold, then we will tweak the management of a few cell sites during periods of congestion.

As part of celebrating the 10th anniversary of the FCC "Pulver Order"<sup>1</sup>, VCXC is convening the Pulver Project with support from Jeff Pulver as a way out of a decade of net neutrality controversy. The Pulver Project invites industry-wide participation toward a common and patriotic goal - winning the United States recognition as the most connected nation on the planet by 2018.

The 2004 Pulver Order illustrates the possibility and benefit of industry unity as well as the merits of preserving the non-regulated status of IP communications. The Pulver Project applies the same strategy of a forward looking deference to innovation and optimistic focus on bandwidth abundance. The energy driving the net neutrality controversy requires imagining a risk of bandwidth scarcity. The obsolete table of typical bandwidth offers in the original 2002 network neutrality paper illustrates the flaw. Infinite human demand for communication makes “bandwidth abundance” an oxymoron, but no one can dispute the striking transformation of the communication landscape from the days of “long distance” telephone calls and waiting for mail delivery.

Anxiety about the future of networks continues to build, because the question of discrimination is inherently divisive and unresolvable in the abstract. Consider the recent advocacy in favor of resurrecting obsolete and innovation unfriendly Title II rules. Proposals require inventing a new distinction between transmission and content that obsoletes 60 years of precedent and experience distinguishing between regulated telecom and non-regulated information services. The plan trades the policy environment responsible a 1000 fold expansion in IP connectivity as information service and the proliferation of IP services under the Pulver Order for a regime leaving call quality unimproved since 1934.

The Pulver Project turns net neutrality into an operational question by focusing on the deployment of IP networks and services. Rather than debating theory and emphasizing areas of disagreement, the Pulver Project advocates addressing practical steps necessary to win the United States most connected nation status by 2018.

Sincerely,

Daniel Berninger, founder, VCXC  
Jeff Pulver, co-founder, Zula

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Docket 03-45, Memorandum Opinion and Order on Petition for Declaratory Ruling that pulver.com's Free World Dialup is Neither Telecommunications Nor a Telecommunications Service.