

Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet
A Proposed Rule by the Federal Communications Commission on 07/01/2014

To whom it may concern:

On July 1, 2014, the Federal Communications Commissions filed a proposed rule to protect and promote the open internet. As an avid user of the internet, I fully support the FCC's initiative to adopt the text of the no-blocking rule from the *Open Internet Order*. This open call for public comment on how to best protect and promote the open internet is an act of collaborative effort between the FCC and the citizens of the Unites States of America.

As a 24 year old graduate student I can credit much of my success in my life so far to the resource of the open internet. Without any additional fees from my broadband providers I can easily access a wealth of information to continue to pursue my graduate degree, help with my career, keep in touch with people, buy a variety of goods, and find information on just about anything I want. As it stands now there are no legally enforceable rules that the FCC has in place to stop broadband providers from limiting Internet openness. I am sincerely scared as to what this means for the great resource of the Internet.

Looking at the bigger picture of the economy it becomes clear that the open Internet needs to stay in place. If websites were forced to pay a premium to a broadband provider to be in the "fast lane" of the internet there may be more harm than good done. The additional fees may be passed on to the consumers and it is possible that consumers would skip over sites that were in the "slow lane" and loaded slower than those willing to pay a higher premium. What happens to the small businesses that may already be tight on their costs? The huge retailers may not be as affected by a limited Internet but it is important to consider everyone that may be affected.

There are many benefits to help foster innovation worldwide by keeping the Internet open. Think of all of the online forums that allow people to connect with each other on intellectual issues. On the Internet, professionals can seek advice, share ideas, and become more innovative. As a giant global community there are so many things we can learn from each other and share in order to contribute to the greater good.

Additionally, the Internet is a way to provide social access to individuals. As a member of the Millennial generation I find a huge source of my identity is related to the Internet. It is the place I go to connect with my family on Facebook, post fun pictures of my day on Instagram, read about current events on Huffington Post, and connect with potential employers on LinkedIn. All of the websites I listed are well established now but imagine if the barriers to entry were too high when they first started. What if Facebook was not able to get off the ground because of limited Internet which required them to pay a premium fee? For many, the Internet experience would be much different without the websites that we frequently access.

What about the websites that aren't huge profit driving sites but provide some sort of other benefit? The website reddit immediately comes to mind for me when thinking about this. They have been branded as "the front page of the internet" and the online forum that they host has a wealth of

information. Their subreddits help individuals worldwide find information, seek help, and provide a general sense of belonging. Their comments to the FCC¹ show how important it is to protect the internet because of the benefits that are provided for the greater good. Sure, some of the content may not be intellectual so to speak but part of being a human is finding those things that may you smile when you have a bad day. All in all, the websites that provide something other than a consumer good or a high volume of advertisements may not survive in an environment without an open Internet.

The FCC taking a proactive approach to adopt the text of the no-blocking rule from the *Open Internet Order* reinforces the importance and benefits to the open Internet. By keeping the Internet open the benefits are endless. The Internet will continue to build the economy, have social benefits, and help us grow as a global community. I hope this public comment finds a place among the other approximate 674,000 comments to support the open Internet.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Bingham

¹ <http://www.redditblog.com/2014/07/join-us-reddit-is-filling-fcc-comment.html>