

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

When the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act (PIPA) were nearing votes in the Congress, the Internet community rallied around the cry that their implementation would lead to the stifling of innovation and free speech; that the enforcement of copyright laws online would be detrimental to a platform that has continued to remain relatively free from regulation.

Today, the same organizations that protested against SOPA and PIPA are asking that the government act as the arbiter of bandwidth; that there should be a government program that monitors all Internet service providers to make sure all information flows at the same speed. And that all information is treated equally -- much like the principles established in the Soviet Union, where people were all ostensibly treated the same, regardless what benefit they brought to the economy.

Like SOPA and PIPA, net neutrality is a misguided and backdoor attack on the free market. At least SOPA and PIPA were attempts to protect the rightful owners of content. Net neutrality proposes that the government force everyone to deliver information at the same speed regardless its value to society. This means that by law, the most insignificant data will need to be accessible at the same speed as the most important and valuable information. Not only will this have the effect of bringing down everyone to an equally low level, but it flies in the face of the free market principles that allowed this nation to become the most powerful country in the world.

The discussion is about net neutrality today, as the Internet is considered essential to everyone. Will this not also eventually lead to an argument that everyone must be given the Internet, as though it represents some sort of Constitutional right? Will it not also lead to discrimination against those who are willing to pay for faster Internet access to their homes, as this would be a disadvantage to those who cannot access the Internet at such speeds? Where does it end?

Additionally, this will further insert the government into a sector that has provided one of the few bright spots in the US economy due to its lack of regulation.

SOPA and PIPA were wrong-headed and dangerous. But net neutrality is just as wrong, and probably even more detrimental, to the Internet in the long-term.

It would behoove the government to stay out of regulating the Internet. Allow the free market to sort this out instead of imposing arbitrary rules with unknown unintended consequences that typically only benefit the largest corporations and prevent companies from being created that would resolve any issues that arise from a lack of net neutrality.