

Dear FCC,

My name is Yuxi Liu and I live in Pasadena, 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 censorship, conscious or unconscious, would be much easier to implement.

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

I grew up in China, and the government indoctrination poisoned my mind from an early age. I was partially detoxified only by using the Internet, mostly through reading articles on Wikipedia, where information is presented freely and as neutrally as possible. By looking at matters of politics from a neutral point, I was cured of nationalism and patriotism, and gained a liking for equality, as well as better appreciation of Western culture, classical and popular alike.

Also, without Wikipedia, I probably would have never learned enough English to come to America, where I can pursue a life of scientific research in the best place for scientific advancement. It is fortunate that the Chinese government did not block Wikipedia (at least in the coastal city where I grew up, Shenzhen, which is a city more liberal than most. It is said that Wikipedia is indeed blocked in inland regions of China), for without it, I would have likely become stuck in China, with a simplistic narrow mindset.

From my experience, I believe that in order to keep America in the lead as long as possible, Net Neutrality is important, very important. The fall of the Soviet Union was caused by the planned economy, which failed because economy is a highly complex, organic force beyond conscious human planning, and can be healthy only when given a decent amount of autonomy and freedom. Similarly, a controlled information network, even a limited one, could be very detrimental to the health of the nation, mostly for its intellectual community, that is, the scholars, students, and social observers.

I came to America because I trusted its freedom. Don't take it away.

Sincerely,

Yuxi Liu