

From: "Sherrod Brown"
Date: July 24, 2014 6:36:43 PM EDT
Subject: Reply from Senator Sherrod Brown

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for getting in touch with me about net neutrality.

In January 2014, a Federal appeals court invalidated a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule prohibiting internet service providers from charging content providers more for faster content delivery. The court ruled that the FCC could not prohibit disparate pricing because the internet is not considered a utility. In response to this ruling, the FCC has proposed and is taking comment on a new rule allowing internet service providers to charge content providers more to deliver their information to internet users at faster speeds.

I share your concern that this new rule could permit a few large companies to squeeze out smaller competitors, startups, and everyday users who cannot afford to pay an extra fee to use an internet fast lane. While we work to meet the growing internet usage demands, this should not come at the expense of small businesses, innovators, and consumers

Imposing financial barriers to internet access would hinder one of the internet's key attributes: its openness. Should legislation to address net neutrality come before the Senate, I will keep your thoughts in mind. Thank you again for getting in touch with me.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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