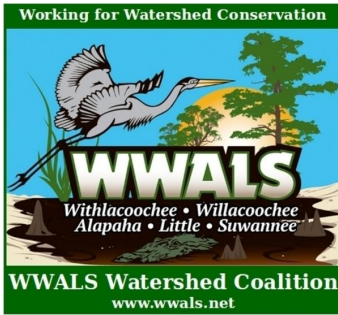


December 13, 2017



To: Chairman Ajit Pai
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554
(888) 225-5322

Re: WC Docket 17-108

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write to urge you to cancel the vote scheduled for tomorrow, December 14, 2017, on the Order in WC Docket 17-108.

As a user, participant, and historian of the Internet since its beginning, I attest that the current FCC net neutrality rules preserve the open nature of the Internet. That openness is essential to a thriving economy and to free speech. Without that openness we would not have the World Wide Web, nor facebook, google, Netflix, Twitter, Instagram, and all the other companies and facilities upon which we all now depend daily. Many people now depend upon the Internet for services as basic as banking and tax payments. Without the openness of net neutrality we would not easily be able to get opinions different from those published by the mass media which are almost all owned by five or six companies in this country.

The proposed Order is based upon a greatly flawed understanding of how the Internet works, as spelled out by many of the people who invented it and made it work:

<https://pioneersfornetneutrality.tumblr.com/>

As those Internet pioneers also wrote:

“This proposed Order would repeal key network neutrality protections that prevent Internet access providers from blocking content, websites and applications, slowing or speeding up services or classes of service, and charging online services for access or fast lanes to Internet access providers’ customers. The proposed Order would also repeal oversight over other unreasonable discrimination and unreasonable practices, and over interconnection with last-mile Internet access providers. The proposed Order removes long-standing FCC oversight over Internet access providers without an adequate replacement to protect consumers, free markets and online innovation.”

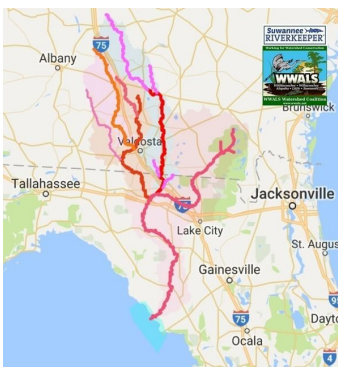
All this would put the U.S. at a distinct economic, scientific, and cultural disadvantage versus countries that retain net neutrality and an open Internet.

Writing as Suwannee Riverkeeper, our ability to disseminate information about everything from sewage spills to phosphate mines depends greatly on an open Internet, as does our ability to organize in-person events, and to coordinate with our peers, and with government agencies such as the FCC.

Once again, I urge you to cancel the vote on this inappropriate and destructive Order and to leave the current net neutrality rules as they are.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

John S. Quarterman,
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®
229-242-0102
contact@suwanneeriverkeeper.org



WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

