

To the FCC Commissioners

Gentlemen and Ladies:

From the time it was invented, the internet has been a medium of public exchange of information. Often this information has been useful in daily living, sometimes it has been controversial, occasionally it has been offensive to someone. But I have had the freedom to determine what I expose myself to. I have had the freedom to post materials, educational and entertaining, without fear of being excluded from the internet.

I will no longer have that right if I wish to have high-speed access. There is no effective high-speed access except Time Warner. Time Warner adds this clause to its acceptable use policy:

TIME WARNER COMMUNICATIONS SHALL HAVE THE SOLE AND UNREVIEWABLE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONTENT VIOLATES THESE STANDARDS.

The "standards" are such that absolutely anything I post could be considered to violate them. If my very opinion offends someone, Time Warner could censor my speech.

If I purchase "unlimited access" and do not violate these standards, I am either speed-capped or terminated as soon as I try to use it. The acceptable use policy states:

IF TIME WARNER DETERMINES THAT THE SUBSCRIBER HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE SERVICE'S STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OR LIMITS ON BANDWIDTH UTILIZATION, TIME WARNER MAY SUSPEND SUBSCRIBER'S ACCOUNT.

It appears that Time Warner wants only customers who do not upload any comments and who use the service merely to purchase additional services. As I have been using the internet for eight years to communicate, not spend money with Time Warner, Time Warner doesn't want me.

It appears that you will approve the AOL Time Warner merger in some manner. If you do not act to require the merged company to return to what this country fought to bring to it's people - freedom of speech, there will be no hope for people like me who want to communicate, instead of purchasing more Bugs Bunny merchandise. This new company will completely monopolize high-speed access. People like me will not be allowed on the internet through the new company.

It seems that you will establish some protection for the large corporations. Will you protect me too?

The internet is a creation of America. It demonstrates to the world the power of freedom. It will be a sad commentary if the country which created freedom kills the most powerful voice for freedom now existing in the world. It will be a reflection on our country, if all citizens of the world have freedom of speech on the internet, except American citizens.

As the internet was designed for people like me, not mult-billion dollar corporations, I sincerely hope you consider me when you make your decision. If you do not, I believe that the result will be the death of the internet as a powerful force for freedom in general and freedom of speech in particular.