

262 Colwell Drive
Dedham, Massachusetts 02026
October 11, 2000

To the FCC Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Internet is in crisis. Your upcoming decision will either save it or insure its destruction as an unrestricted conduit for U.S. citizens to communicate.

The Internet was designed as a medium for open communications, not a tool for commercial entities to use to sell their "content" to subscribers. However, to guarantee our citizens this avenue to free speech they must have uncensored access to the resource.

Under your consideration is the merger between two of the most powerful gatekeepers to the Internet, AOL and Time-Warner. The question you should be asking is, "Will the average American be able to enter through that gate after these entities have joined? And, if so, will he be able to voice his concerns on important social, political, and even commercial concerns, or will he be censored because the newly merged *uber*-gatekeeper doesn't approve of what he says?"

The rules of use for those entering the Information Superhighway via the AOL and Time Warner on ramp are very clear; if AOL and Time Warner do not approve of their speech, they may be censored. If they want to use the Internet to send data, rather than merely purchase their content, they are subjected to speed capping or banned from the Internet all together. AOL and Time Warner's 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. TIME WARNER COMMUNICATIONS SHALL HAVE THE SOLE AND UNREVIEWABLE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONTENT VIOLATES THESE STANDARDS.

Why does Time Warner have the **SOLE AND UNREVIEWABLE RIGHT TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONTENT VIOLATES THEIR STANDARDS**? This is simply too much power for any corporation to have and is not acceptable. Why must all Americans be restricted to communications, both voice and data, that conform to the standards of their Internet service provider? This form of censorship does not exist when I place a phone call or print a book. Why, therefore, should it be allowed when I communicate on the Internet? If AOL and Time Warner are allowed to decide who can say what to whom, what other forms of free speech will be next? The Internet was created to allow for uncensored public discourse. Please, let's keep this way.

With deepest respect, I sincerely hope you will consider me, and all other users of the Internet when you make your decision. Please insure that all citizens may continue to use the Internet as intended, and specifically, that restrictions will not be placed on me based upon the quantity or content of my speech.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Charles E. Kron