

Sam Mansell  
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To the FCC Commissioners

Gentlemen and Ladies:

The Internet is in mortal danger, and you will make the decision on whether it lives or dies as we know it today.

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 post it without fear of being excluded from the internet.

I 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.

Even if I do not violate these standards, if I purchase "unlimited access" as soon as I try to use it, I am either speed-capped or terminated. 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 quite a long time 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 the basic principles of freedom of speech, there will be no hope for people like me who want to communicate, not purchase more Bugs Bunny cartoons. The new company will totally control high-speed access. People like me will not be allowed on the internet through the new company.

It seems that you favor establishing some protections for the large corporations. Will you also act to protect me too? I feel that protection of individual rights would be the primary obligation of the commission and all commercial considerations would be secondary to that individual rights protection.

The internet is a creation of America, (except for the statement made by Mr. Gore), and shows 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.

I feel that the proposed use conditions constitute severe violations of my rights under the Constitution of the United States amendments I and IV:

**Amendment I**

**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or rohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**

**Amendment IV**

**The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.**

As the internet was designed for the citizens, not the 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.

Yours with grave concerns,

Sam Mansell