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To the FCC Commissioners

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The internet is in crisis. Your decision will either save it or guarantee its destruction as =

a form of communication for the average citizen.

The internet was designed as a form of communication, not as a tool of commercial =

concerns to sell "content" to their subscribers. But to communicate on the internet, first =

you must get access to the internet.

You are considering a merger between two most powerful gatekeepers to the =

internet. The question is, will I be able to enter through that gate? And, once there, =

may I voice my concerns on important social, political, and even commercial concerns, =

or will I be summarily banned because the gatekeeper doesn't approve of what I say?

The rules of AOL and Time Warner are extremely clear; if they do not approve my =

speech, I cannot speak. I am not allowed on the internet unless I defer to their opinion, =

not voice mine. And, if I decide to use the internet to send data, rather than merely =

purchase "content" from Time Warner and AOL, I am again summarily speed capped or =

banned from the internet. Their 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? Why can't I =

post comment based on MY standards, not theirs? And, when I purchase UNLI= MITED =

SERVICE, why can they then establish bandwidth limitations? Is this unlim= ited service? =

Is not a company required to deliver what the customer pays for?

I regularly correspond with users from many foreign countries. Their ISP= 's cannot =

control their speech. Why does not an American citizen have at least the= same freedom =

of speech as do the citizens of foreign countries? We taught them the va= lue and power =

of freedom of speech. Must they now teach us how to avoid its death at t= he hands of =

commercial mega-corporations concerned only with their sale of "content?"=

If AOL and Time Warner are allowed to take over the responsibility of dec= iding who can =

say what to whom, how will you return the internet to its stated purpose = of a media of =

public discourse? How will you put the genie back in the bottle? How wi= ll you explain =

to me why my viewpoint is so offensive that I must be barred from the int= ernet?

I sincerely entreat you to consider me, and all other citizen users of th= e internet. =

Please, when you make your decision, insure that I can continue to use th= e internet, =

and specifically that high speed access will not be denied to me based up= on the =

quantity or content of my speech.