

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 a 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 to 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