

**Writers Guild of America, East**

250 Hudson Street  
New York, NY 10013

T. 212.767.7800  
F. 212.582.1909  
www.wgaeast.org



August 4, 2014

Thomas Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Michael Winship  
President

Jeremy Pikser  
Vice President

Bob Schneider  
Secretary-Treasurer

Council

John Auerbach  
Henry Bean  
Walter Bernstein  
Sue Brown  
Arthur Daley  
Bonnie Datt  
Terry George  
Gina Gionfriddo  
Susan Kim  
Jenny Lumet  
Patrick Mason  
Zhubin Parang  
Phil Pilato  
Bernardo Ruiz  
Ted Schreiber  
Lara Shapiro  
Courtney Simon  
Duane Tollison  
Richard Vetere

Lowell Peterson  
Executive Director

Ruth Gallo  
Assistant Executive Director

Marsha Seeman  
Assistant Executive Director

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

In the first round of public comments on the FCC's proposed rulemaking *viz* an Open Internet (i.e., Net neutrality), the Commission received more than a million responses. Among them were those of the Writers Guild of America, East (AFL-CIO), representing writers in motion pictures, broadcast and cable television, digital media and radio and television broadcast news.

We noted that with the proposed revisions to the Open Internet Order and the pending mergers of Comcast with Time Warner Cable and AT&T with DirectTV, the FCC "will determine how the media landscape is drawn for generations to come."

What's more, "As the Internet has developed in recent years, all data reaches consumers through a single pipe: email, social media, television, feature films after or sometimes simultaneous with their theatrical releases, made-for-digital programs, news in text and video form, land-line telephony. Permitting powerful gatekeepers to control and prioritize what flows through this single pipe, and at what rate and quality, would have an enormous effect on what Americans watch and read and learn and write and communicate. Equal and open access is essential and must be protected."

We believe the time has now come for the Commission to hold public hearings on the Open Internet rulemaking around the country. It is imperative that the FCC members travel beyond Washington, DC, to hear for themselves the voices of the American people who insist upon an Internet kept available on an equal and democratic basis for all.

We stand ready to assist the Commission in making these hearings possible. They are vitally important to our union members -- the storytellers and journalists who present America to itself and the world -- and to every citizen who values the freedom to speak and be heard.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Lowell Peterson  
Executive Director

Michael Winship  
President