

American Commitment: Biden FCC's Internet Re-Regulation Is the Triumph of Ideology Over Reality

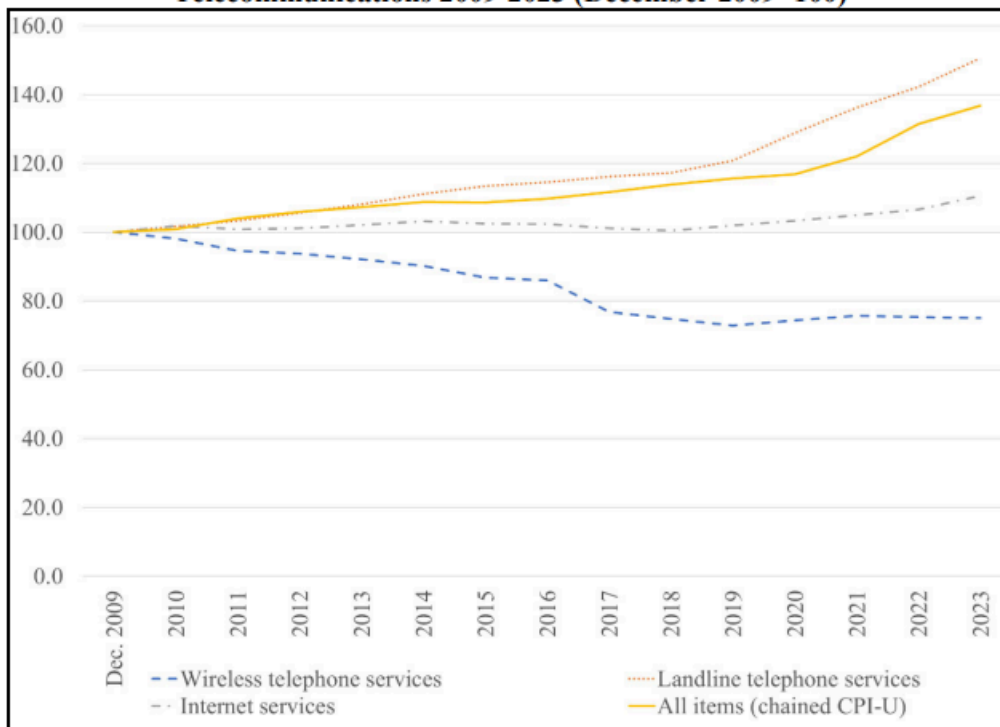
Washington, D.C. – Phil Kerpen, President of American Commitment, issued the following statement on the FCC announcement of an April 25 "net neutrality" vote that would reclassify broadband as a regulated public utility under Title II of the Communications Act of 1934:

When the Trump FCC deregulated the Internet, the media and other Democrats predicted total societal collapse and literal mass death. What we got was lower prices, higher speeds, and zero negative consequences of any kind. Re-regulation under these circumstances demonstrates a near pathological inability to overcome ideological bias despite overwhelming empirical evidence.

Real broadband prices (adjusted for inflation) have fallen 12% since 2017. The cost-per-megabit of broadband service has declined 80% since 2015.

This chart from the FCC's own broadband report shows prices plunged when deregulation took effect, and they have stayed flat even as Biden's inflation has raised the price of almost everything else:

Fig. 16
Annual Consumer Price Indices for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)
Telecommunications 2009-2023 (December 2009=100)



Source: FCC 2024 Section 706 Report.

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-400675A1.pdf>

The same FCC report shows speeds have increased substantially. Americans are paying less and getting more thanks to Trump's Internet deregulation, and the FCC knows it.

The Biden's FCC rush to re-regulate can be expected to have the opposite effect of making Internet service more expensive. It cannot possibly be justified on the economics. It must be about something else.

Between the public utility re-regulation and the digital discrimination rules, the FCC is establishing a regime of economic and legal control that may empower the federal government to "suggest" that ISP's "voluntarily" block sites that disagree with official narratives about public health, climate science, election integrity, and other issues of public concern.

It is not too late for one of the three FCC Democrats to stand up and put a stop to this insanity. Failing that, Congress should step in and stop this reckless pendulum from swinging with every presidential election.

American Commitment engages in critical public policy fights over the size and intrusiveness of government through direct advocacy, strategic policy analysis, and grassroots mobilization. Working with key partners, American Commitment delivers timely, effective public policy research to the broader free-market movement.