

Letter copy received April 27, 2017:

Dear Mr. Pai,

As any boy who built a ham radio or learned the Morse code to get his radio license knows, the FCC has been the heart of this country's quest for communication locality and even-handed 'fairness'. It has protected the citizens' right to own and control the means of communication until present times. Since the earliest days when the giant AT&T twice attempted to wrestle control of radio broadcasting and was ultimately prohibited, the FCC has been the hero of our most talented innovators and artists. That is its proud history.

Trusting the leadership of huge corporations with America's artistic heritage is a crucial mistake, and can already be seen in the 'monotony' of contemporary major studio cinema. The Internet was conceived and designed to be a free medium, with network neutrality assured and the resurgent power of big business held in check on behalf of the public's greater interests.

The changes you are making at the FCC will only make the fragile balance between artist and businessman more impossible to maintain. I assure you that none of the films that I or my contemporaries are known and celebrated for could exist today in such a climate. Please appeal to the artist in yourself to protect us, something the FCC always has done.

Sincerely,
Francis Ford Coppola