

In light of a formidable danger to the liberties of people living in a free nation, it is the right -- it is the duty - of all citizens to petition for redress. Allowing internet service providers, many of whom are vestigial corporations formed by the dissolution of telecommunications monopolies like AT&T/Bell, to decide the speed at which they will serve specific content will allow for diminished quality of service, increases in already unreasonable service fees, and unbridled censorship of free expression.

Over the years and perhaps decades, the Internet has been a medium for dissemination of myriad content. Indeed, its existence has led to proliferation of forms of expression -- artistic, commercial, scholastic, and otherwise -- that were not even imaginable before its advent. Its presence is responsible for a fundamental evolution in our business, our culture, and other aspects of daily life that impact all Americans, even those with limited or no Internet access.

Nowhere, however, has the Internet proved more important than in the preservation and advancement of our democratic political systems. At no point in our history has information related to state, federal, and local politics been so easily accessible, accurate, and current as in the present day. However, with the novelty and popularity of the Internet has come an increased reliance on it -- and, consequently, an increased reliance on those entities who provide it. To allow them de facto capability to censor content -- with their already present abuses of our systems of government -- is far more serious an action than merely preserving the abstract and intangible freedom of choice they enjoy by nature of their corporate status. It is instead to give them veritable carte blanche in the tyrannical suppression of thought and expression, thereby allowing a substantial part of our lives to be reduced under an absolute despotism -- from our trade to our livelihoods and, ultimately, our capacity as self-governing citizens.

Some among our citizens -- and, indeed, among members of the Congress -- question the validity or necessity of these regulations, contending that it is permissible for the aforementioned bodies to engage in whatever behavior they wish to without consequence or reasonable constraint. Free societies, by their nature, are invariably established for preservation of the rights of both the collective and the individual against attack by those who would seek to oppress them. Allowing a small and wealthy cabal of special interests who already wield tremendous power over telecommunications is therefore not only a failure of government, but also a betrayal of the values upon which this nation was founded. I trust that the Federal Communications Commission will, in considering this matter, perform the solemn duty with which it is entrusted and protect the liberty we as Americans so highly prize.