

The internet has become as important a part of American democracy as the press. The free and open exchange of information is necessary to keeping our democracy strong. Any move to allow internet service providers (ISP's) to restrict the flow in any manner works against the ideals of our nation.

The reality, we need to move from the internet as a business model. Interstate highways are also a necessary part of the function of our country. They show us the importance of connecting Americans through ease of travel. We would do well to let it serve as the model for how the internet should look.

Additionally, we are falling behind. Many of the same ISP's that are looking to restrict the exchange of information work a harder line in keeping much of our nation out of it through a soft form of discrimination. Broadband internet is not available to large portions of the United States as it may be somewhat cost-prohibitive to an ISP to provide such service. Then, once the lines are in, they are loathe to allow another ISP to utilize their lines, in spite of such promises made to local municipalities in exchange for easements to make the installation process easier. I'm certain that wiser heads than mine can indicate how this is not monopolization.

I ask that we cease giving ear to ISP's in their goals to restrict communication through the internet. Vote down 17-108, and close the door on the issue for good. The people have many other things to do than to keep coming back to continue support net neutrality because large ISP's have the money to keep pushing at the issue in the hopes that we won't speak out against it one time.