I’d doubt this will be read by those who need to read it, but nevertheless I must continue. To jump directly to the argument: without the free and open internet, our modern-day democracy will decay. But what constitutes Net Neutrality? Simply put, Net Neutrality is uncensored equal access and quality of access to all content on the web. It means that one should expect the same quality if internet service if they view Facebook.com or WhiteHouse.gov. To add substance behind this argument, consider the following scenario.

A high-ranking government official has flagrantly broken a country’s law. Since that person has considerable authority, he/she may use their power to influence Internet Service Providers or ISPs to restrict web sites that criticize or report on them. This prevents the public from being informed and will help safeguard the corrupt official’s outward reputation. Since their reputation is intact due to this suppression, they can continue to carry out such activities to the detriment of their own country. When these officials are not brought to justice as soon as possible, huge security leaks may happen over time as the notorious case of Robert Hanssen demonstrated.

If the United States stands for freedom of speech, it must recognize that to infringe upon net neutrality is to destroy American democracy. Prior to the American Revolution, newspaper publisher John Peter Zenger exercised the principle of freedom of speech and criticizedRoyal Governor William Cosby in his newspaper. He was arrested and promptly sent to jail by orders of Cosby. Later, only with the intervention of the jury, he was declared not guilty and released. Today the main medium of communication is no longer the newspaper, it is the internet. To impede free and open access to certain content of the internet is equivalent to impede free and open access to certain newspapers articles. The internet today is where people conduct their business, livelihoods and communication. Like the newspapers of old, this medium must be safeguarded with the utmost scrutiny.

One of the key reasons why the colonists rebelled against the Tyranny of King George the Third was flagrant violations of free-speech and other civil liberties. That is why freedom of speech is the very 1st Amendment in the Constitution’s Bill of Rights.

Also, if the United States does ease the protections of Net Neutrality, other countries may follow too. Why should Europe allow US content through if the US does not allow European content. This may play out to be an internet world war or depression, comparable to the beginnings of the Great Depression where countries including the US enacted high import tariffs on foreign trade. This effectively devastated the world economy and partly led to WW2.

With the aforementioned reasons, I am strongly in favor of preserving the scared liberty of Net Neutrality.