I write to urge the FCC to keep the 2015 rules for net neutrality in place. I use the internet multiple times every day. It is the main way I get my news, and the main way I learn about what elected leaders are doing. Without net neutrality rules, ISPs could block or slow access to news sites or websites that make government more transparent, like govtrack.us. If they did this, my ability to evaluate candidates for office would be severely impaired. I would not be able to make an informed, independent decision based on facts. Instead, the primary information I’d have to use would be campaign ads, campaign mailers, or perhaps attending a campaign event. In my small town, the local paper comes once a week, and does not cover national news or statewide news, so I would not be able to get independent, non-partisan information from that source. I no longer receive a national paper delivery; instead I access all my news online.

We need enforceable rules to prevent ISP providers from blocking or slowing access to the websites or apps of their choice. We cannot rely on ISPs policing themselves. They are not accountable to the American people, but to their shareholders. Anyone or any body that is responsible for policing an industry or a community must be accountable to the American people, either through being elected themselves, or through being appointed by elected officials. Without this accountability, self-policing will be ineffective, if not downright corrupt.

Commissioner Pai claims that the net neutrality rules must be rescinded because they have hurt industry investment in broadband networks. However, a recent report from Free Press finds the opposite – since 2015, when net neutrality rules were adopted, the majority of ISPs have *increased* investment. (I am attaching this report to my comment). Net neutrality has been good for consumers *and* good for ISPs. This is exactly the kind of rule we need!

Net neutrality is vital to our society—vital to maintaining our democracy through an informed electorate, social movements and healthy dissent; vital to providing an equal playing field in education so that non-profit schools don’t find their internet access slower than for-profit schools who can pay more, vital for the health; and vital to economic opportunity for the poor, who would not have the same access to information if ISPs created expensive packages of websites available only to those who can pay.

I urge the commission to maintain the 2015 net neutrality rules.