I am opposed to the FCC’s current proposal to repeal its “Net Neutrality” rule. Net Neutrality is important to keep the internet open for the users to access content without distortion from the ISPs. As a customer, I am purchasing access to the internet - the entire internet, not the portion of it that some company decides I should have access to. Without Net Neutrality, even if the ISP gives full access to the internet it can still “throttle” my use in order to steer me towards specific parts or away from other parts. For example, Comcast could steer me towards streaming content from NBC’s website and away from CBS’s website or from Netflix. This is wrong and no ISP should have the power to limit my ability to use the internet.

Alternatively, suppose an ISP wants to influence its customers’ opinions about a political candidate or policy initiative. Without Net Neutrality, the ISP could use its power as the access point to the internet to drive its customers toward websites that would skew their understanding of the issues. We already see local media companies such as Sinclair Broadcasting try to influence the public debate with dubious reporting; it could just as easily happen on the internet.

Furthermore, the idea that consumers would be able to switch ISPs if they don’t like being throttled or limited by one ISP assumes that all Americans have access to multiple ISPs. In many parts of the country, there is only one ISP that provides any service at all. What kind of competition is there when there is only one ISP, and how would a customer be able to switch to another ISP?

Repealing Net Neutrality is not a consumer-friendly proposal. It serves only to advance the interests of the large corporations that provide access to the internet by allowing them to determine what websites their customers may access.