I strongly oppose the proposed plan and demand that Chairman Pai and the F.C.C abandon this plan to dismantle net neutrality.

Despite Chairman Pai’s claims, the end of net neutrality will not benefit the general consumer. It will certainly not benefit the low-income or the impoverished.

I was born and raised in Lemay, Missouri and was both fortunate and unfortunate enough to see how prevalent the effects and presence of poverty are there. I can tell you from experience that there were many days where there was no choice between whether we ate or paid the bills. Our food came from the one food pantry that served our neighborhood—half of it was rotting, the other half will never constitute a meal. And when it came to paying bills? The first to go was our internet, phone, and cable services.

Without the internet, my mother couldn’t access the documents her lawyer would send via a secure online portal regarding her divorce or protection order hearings. Without the internet, I was left without access to my university’s email. I had trouble registering, I had trouble paying my tuition. Without the internet, I couldn’t secure summer work, as for most entry level and part time jobs require an online application.

The internet is more than a place to play games or watch videos.

The internet is a necessity. Broadband needs to stay an “essential service”, or Lemay, Missouri, and the United States will suffer for it.

By choosing to proceed with this vote, you are telling American's that you do not prioritize their legal justice, their access to education, or their ability to provide for themselves. You are telling them that you would rather allow internet service providers to monopolize the market and to force individuals and small businesses to decide whether they can forgo something else, just to have access to something that is and should be seen as a necessity and a common good. You are telling Americans that you support a pay-to-play method of regulation that will cut out those small, local businesses and those poorer individuals in favor of market superpowers like Walmart and the 1%.

Once again, I would like to make clear that I vehemently oppose this plan and vote. I demand that the F.C.C make themselves accountable to the general public and the people who this plan will devastate. I demand that Chairman Pai abandon this attack on democracy and equal access. I demand that he drop the vote to dismantle net neutrality.