The internet is about freedom;

Please consider the impact that changing net neutrality laws has on a global scale…

Please consider the poor, the oppressed and the persecuted… their voices will be suppressed if they cannot afford to pay for or do not have the right to access the internet to share their stories and overcome injustice. Do you really want to foster inequality, discrimination and injustice? How will we fight to end these injustices such as poverty if we cannot access first-hand reports of these injustices from the people who are experiencing them?

Please consider the isolated, the lonely and the segregated… they deserve to feel loved and embraced by a community of internet friends, but what will happen if they cannot access these friends, these people who share their desire to connect, and these people who support each through connectivity?

Please consider the students, the scholars and the teachers… who share a yearning to learn more and be more, what happens when you take away the right to access certain information on the internet? Is that not what happens in North Korea, where their source of information is restricted to a government controlled intranet service (Kwangmyong)?

Please consider the innovators, the pioneers, the creators and the entertainers… they are the foundation for societal development and the essence of freedom of expression. If they cannot have access to information how can they be inspired? If they have access to information but cannot share their proprietary creations, technologies and ideas how can they be able to create positive change in the world? If we do not have access to new ideas and new creations then creativity and development will be diminished.

Please consider the general population… as a member of the general population, I was unaware that the internet itself could become a dictatorship? The word dictatorship may sound dramatic but you are planning to allow the paid prioritisation of internet content and websites alike, as well as the blocking and restriction of content and the control of what we see and what we do on the internet, among other things.

Am I imaging this, or is freedom merely a flexible and mouldable substance to which large governments and in turn large corporations can stretch and throw around like toy that they see as meaningless and insignificant compared to the money that they could make off of it. Do you really think that my voice should not be heard, that the community of internet users should be silenced and controlled like misbehaving children?

We are more than that, we are much more than that…

We together make up the poor, the oppressed, the persecuted, the isolated, the lonely, the segregated, the students, the scholars, the teachers, the innovators, the pioneers, the creators and the entertainers, to name just a few of us.

We are the individuals that make up the community of the internet… and will be heard, we have the basic human right of freedom both in life and virtually, on the internet.

Do not silence our voices, do not make us blind to injustice, do not restrict us and isolate us, do not hinder creativity, do not impede development, do not take away the right to be anonymous, do not control us and do not take away our freedom.

Sincerely,

A caring user of the internet.