I'm writing today in support of net neutrality, which is important to me for two main reasons. Abstractly, it's important because allowing broadband providers to provide preferential treatment to content providers stifles our First Amendment rights to free expression. More personally, it puts the power in the hands of big corporations with money, and stifles innovation. I buy (and sell) things on Etsy, which is a great example of a website that wouldn't be there if they'd had to compete with large corporations as they started up. Changing how this works could stifle the next Amazon - because while they're gigantic now, they didn't start that way.

Allowing broadband providers to reframe themselves as "content providers" is disingenuous. I pay Suddenlink Communications, the single broadband provider available for my home, to provide me with "fast" internet. I don't care about the content they provide - in fact, I think the only times we've even visited their website were to get phone numbers to deal with an account problem. Even Verizon Wireless, my cell phone provider, provides me with broadband cellular access - not an email account, not any content. All content and services I access through my devices is from companies OTHER than my service providers. Even my cellphone's primary backup service is through Google rather than Verizon.

Regulate the DELIVERY, but allow customers to choose their content separately. Similarly, I have no choice in delivery of broadband access. I have ONE option at my home, and their service (and customer service) is terrible. I can't switch. If you repeal net neutrality, and Suddenlink decides to say, prefer Apple Music over Amazon Music, I won't have access to a service I rely on, or I'll need to pay more to access it.