

Our Internet economy is the envy of the world because it is open to all. The proposal scheduled to be voted upon later in December tears at the foundation of that openness. It hands broadband providers the power to decide what voices to amplify, which sites we can visit, what connections we can make, and what communities we create.

It gives those broadband providers access to our private information, our private thoughts and actions, and our private curiosity, to monetize as they see fit, without our permission or knowledge.

Simply stated, it allows the most powerful corporations control of the entire Internet, at the expense of the rest of us, who will have no recourse to their decisions.

Corporations represent the antithesis of equal access for all.

Corporations are formed to promote the interests of their founders and shareholders, for their own benefit. So what happens when you place corporations in control of a public facility such as the Internet?

They will throttle access to activities and content they view as not in their interest.

They will stall opportunities that they view as not in their interest.

They will censor content that they view as not in their interest.

Finally, they will make use of the information available to them, provided of necessity in the course of doing business by their customers, subscribers, and users, to serve their interests and enrich their revenues, to the detriment of the privacy of those customers, subscribers and users.