

Dear FCC Commissioner,

I am your basic, middle-of-the-road, middle-aged, white female, working as an office manager in a small construction company. It is difficult to stay educated on these issues, but I do my best, which is all individuals have the power to do. Please have the FCC keep net neutrality for American people, ***otherwise who is left to speak for individuals?*** Corporations already have power and money to get their way. I live in a metropolitan area where one would think I would be the beneficiary of “the market”, of competition for my dollars. Instead, there is a virtual monopoly on who provides my internet service (Comcast).

How is it that Comcast and Verizon deserve the benefits of de-regulation, but as a citizen, I do not deserve the right to a free-flow of information over the internet?

Without net neutrality, consumers could be forced to access a distorted internet, where information is prioritized according to the financial interests of telecom and cable companies, rather than a free flow of information.

It has ***already*** happened:

Per the L.A. Times (I do not live in the LA area):

“Evidence was mounting that ISPs with market power over the home internet market were exercising it in their self-interest, and not on behalf of subscribers.

As we’ve reported before, the best example was the behavior of Comcast, a cable firm that held a virtual monopoly over internet service in its home territories. In 2007, Comcast was caught degrading traffic from the file-sharing service BitTorrent, which had contracts to distribute licensed content from Hollywood studios and other sources in direct competition with Comcast's pay-TV business. In 2010, the Santa Monica-based Tennis Channel filed a complaint with the FCC alleging that Comcast kept it isolated on a little-watched sports tier while giving much better placement to the Golf Channel and Versus, two channels that compete with it for advertising — and which Comcast happened to own. The FCC sided with the Tennis Channel, but was overruled in federal court.”

Is this surprising, who exactly is “winning”:

Starting in 2014, the webpage, corporate.comcast.com/openinternet/open-net-neutrality, contained this statement: “Comcast doesn’t prioritize Internet traffic or create paid fast lanes.” That statement remained on the page until April 26 of this year. **But on April 27, the paid prioritization pledge was nowhere to be found on that page and remains absent now.**

What changed? It was on April 26 that FCC Chairman Ajit Pai announced the first version of his plan to eliminate net neutrality rules.

Net neutrality preserves undistorted consumers' freedom of choice, please vote to keep net neutrality.

Your fellow American citizen,
Stephanie Bainbridge