My name is Brynn Cobos and I am a citizen concerned about the impending effort to roll back on the net neutrality regulations put in place under President Obama’s administration.

It has been brought to my attention that if the FCC does in fact roll back these regulations, it will give Internet providers the power to block or favor certain websites. They could even charge people more money in order to use or have faster access to certain websites.

I do not believe that is fair. The Internet was created to be a free space for businesses and people to share their content with the world, whatever it may be. Giving businesses like Verizon and other ISPs the power to regulate what we can and can’t see on the Internet would be essentially infringing on our First Amendment right of freedom of speech. Sure, people will be able to say what they want on the Internet. But the power lies within the ISP to decide if others can or can’t see it. The Internet is a place that should not have to be regulated and is a place for people to share their ideas. It would essentially be like regulating who can or can’t speak publicly about their own ideas.

Additionally, this has the potential to have a negative effect on the economy and small businesses in the country. Most small businesses of this day and age are started on the Internet and gain publicity and sales through their websites and online stores. I can’t tell you how many people I have seen on Twitter or Facebook, for example, who have started their businesses online and have become absolute success stories. If net neutrality is rolled back, these businesses have the potential to lose sales and have less traffic to their websites. Small businesses are widely considered the “backbone of the American economy”, but this rollback seems to benefit big businesses rather than small businesses. How will small businesses thrive or even merely survive if ISPs decide to block or heavily regulate traffic to their sites? How does that uphold attaining the “American Dream”?

Rolling back these net neutrality regulations does not sound like it will be beneficial for America in the age of technology. Times have changed and many people rely on the Internet for so many different things in their lives, from getting news, to connecting with other people in the world, to simply just doing their everyday jobs. Taking away net neutrality would be disastrous for Americans and seems to impede on our core values while largely benefitting ISPs.

As former FCC chairman Tom Wheeler said, the job of the FCC is to represent the consumer. Not the ISPs. The FCC must protect our right to equal access to the Internet and all of the content it encompasses. The Internet is not a place to be regulated so that ISPs have the power to make more money off of consumers.

I hope when making your decision on this issue, you take my views into consideration. I am sure many people also have the same concerns as I do, and I hope these concerns will be represented when this issue is decided.

Thank you for your time, and I am hopeful that you will do all you can to uphold my rights.

Respectfully,

Brynn Cobos