The false delusion that eliminating Net Neutrality will not lead to the big ISP companies taking advantage of an opportunity to overcharge the American people is not one that we can afford to make.

The Internet was created and meant to be something that unites us together as one people across the globe. It’s freedom, no matter how big or small you are provides that the greatest information and content can be seen by all. The internet is one of the great equalizers of our modern world, so choosing to eliminate Net Neutrality and allowing major ISP companies like Comcast and Verizon to throttle speeds for websites that can’t pay them enough (blogs, individuals who own sites, startup companies, small businesses—the true backbone and creator of jobs in this country, not major corporations) is overall something that could ruin future growth, innovation and progress for us as a country.

And the argument that they simply will not do this is even more ludicrous. Without the limit of law, these companies will be motivated by profit to charge more by throttling certain websites and data that can’t afford to pay them enough, that they don’t approve of, or go against their own interests.

In fact, it’s already been done before by these major companies and was one of the reasons why ISPs were classified under Title II in 2015—to save Net Neutrality and stop Verizon, Comcast, and the others from having tyrannical power and control over the internet. They’re even being accused of doing it today too, so there is no doubt their efforts will reach enormous levels if Net Neutrality is eliminated. And surely Mr. Ajit Pai’s efforts are biased and a conflict of interest considering his past as a lawyer for one of the biggest ISP’s of them all, Verizon, who has been accused of going against Net Neutrality multiple times in the past.

In short, the internet today constitutes an expression of the Freedom of Speech and giving this power to ISPs by eliminating Net Neutrality is effectively allowing them to censor material and content they do not approve of, therefore censoring one of the greatest rights of the First Amendment and of this great nation, the Freedom of Speech.

I implore you to stop these efforts to eliminate Net Neutrality and vote to keep it for the betterment of all people in this country and the world as a whole. The American people will not stand for an internet without Net Neutrality. Allow the passing of this provision, and the war has only just begun.

* George Santoire

Concerned Citizen and Informed Voter