The rules in place regarding net neutrality are there for everyone, including smaller or less popular ISP’s. I have no idea what the perceived benefits are of disbanding or removing these rules, but I am against them. Whatever improvements to the market or internet stocks or whatever could be made or whatever morals are thought to uphold the decision to repeal net neutrality do not outweigh the good that they have done, already do, and should hopefully continue to do far into the future. The internet needs to stay free, end of story; however, since this point seems to be unclear as of late a la the repeal proceedings to take place within 24 hours of me writing this I will go into greater detail.

Internet freedom and being able to stream all content the same way regardless of the service and the provider is what makes the internet the thing it is today. All its content, its diversity, the way it gets shared, and the people it reaches are all by products of how freely can tap into as well as contribute to it. I find it hard to believe that Facebook could arguably have been the same if Mark Zuckerberg had run into resistance because some ISP or if other social networking competitors decided to make alternatives to Facebook refresh or load faster before it had a chance to get off the ground.

Society has also come to depend on web services a lot more, and reliance is stretching into smaller and smaller sectors of the economy. From students who manipulate code together, online to the millions of people who use Google services for emails, documents, web browsing, etc. there is no place where wi-fi, streaming, and downloading are extraneous. There is no telling the people who will be disappointed when they find their go-to service has been inhibited or set back from others and all for the gain of others. Or others, small business owners such as my dad, might find it even more difficult to reach out online to customers and markets when they cannot compete for a lack of connectivity speed, especially when it’s said so often how “small business is the backbone of the U.S. economy.”

Our leisure activities and hobbies are entirely pervaded by the culture of the internet too. For example, the recent growth in television streaming services, clients of these new services would surely be unhappy if suddenly they found it to be unreliable and come to find that it’s only the case for that provider because another company paid more. Competition is a natural and necessary part of capitalism yes, but the means of competing should not reside in the control of the vendors – or ISP’s – instead of in the hands of the people. What is popular, prevalent, or fast, should be based on public support and grassroots contribution, and not because of the deep pockets of one company over another.

These are just a few of the reasons and I have a feeling my explicit thoughts will not reach the attention of any important figure in authority, but at the very least I can contribute to the number of people in support of protecting the ideals the internet was built on and the safeties to engage in whatever streaming or browsing activities I want without questioning whether it will be as fast as any other. If you have read this far I thank you and hope it will make a difference by my typing this.