I’m writing to support net neutrality. The internet is a public resource. While private companies support the distribution of internet access, these companies rely heavily on public resources in the form of public airwaves (for cellular providers) and right of way (for landline distribution). These resources are stewarded by public entities on behalf of all Americans and that stewardship and use is made to provide the public benefit. The interests of providing unequal footing to internet users is borne from a profit motive that runs counter to this public stewardship and is inappropriate. The interest in having potential discriminatory behavior dealt with after the fact allows harm to occur before trying to rectify the problems. This too is inappropriate when prevention can occur. Further, many forms of harm cannot be rectified after the fact, only punitive fines and future corrective actions can be put in place. The interest of parties in providing an unequal footing for internet traffic strikes me as analogous to telephone service providers allowing marketing calls to interrupt calls already in progress with family or emergency responders. That sounds absurd, and the interest in providing similar discrepancies in service for internet traffic should as well.

I also strongly object to the limited opportunities for the public to interact and be informed about these efforts to change the standards of internet provision, a resource used by the majority of Americans.