

Last Bastion Of Free Speech

Net Neutrality is essential to free speech, equal opportunity and economic innovation in America. Since the FCC removed this basic protection in 2005, the top executives of phone and cable companies have stated their intention to become the Internet's gatekeepers and to discriminate against Web sites that don't pay their added tolls.

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would damage my ability to connect with others, share information and participate in our 21st century democracy and economy. The FCC must ensure that broadband providers do not block, interfere with or discriminate against any lawful Internet traffic based on its ownership, source or destination.

The simple fact is that our entire economic system is based on the relative ease of opening and carrying on a business. Internet discrimination adds one more "entry barrier" for anyone starting or operating a business. We have altogether too many entry barriers now!

Equally important is the fact that the Internet is essentially the last place where ideas that are not favored by government or giant corporations can be expressed, disseminated, honed, and built upon. What other choices are there? "Soap box" speeches? You need a permit that you may not be granted, probably can't afford, and to be effective will require resources you don't have. Newspapers? They're all owned by major corporations, and won't print anything contrary to the perceived interests or their owners. Radio and television? Same story. Only on the Internet can any idea be broadcast, to be judged on its merits.

It's also worth considering the contribution that the Internet makes to family relationships. When something interesting happens, you can easily send an email to your "sisters, cousins, and aunts"*. That is easier than using any other method of communication to more than one person.

I sincerely hope that you, the FCC will stand up for freedom.