

Please preserve net neutrality

My rights as a tax-paying citizen of this country depend most on the freedom of expression and the sharing ideas. If stripped of all else, it is in this most fundamental of freedoms that hope for a perfect nation can continue to thrive. In this technology-driven society, the Internet has become an absolutely critical mechanism by which ideas can be expressed. It has become more significant than the pamphlet, the newspaper, the megaphone, the tape recorder, the video recorder and even the telephone. Its ownership by the public must be preserved. Our rights, our very way of life in this great country must not be sold off to the highest bidder.

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.