

How Do I Need Thee, Let Me Count the Ways

I use the internet in so many different ways (thus the allusion to Elizabeth Barret Browning's poem). I create simple websites for churches and non-profits. The net allows me to be more politically aware and politically active. I get news FAST when there is a breaking story. I also access news that is not in mainstream media. And I keep in touch with treasured friends and relatives across the country. The internet allowed a group of us who graduated from high school back in the dark ages (1964) to reconnect and keep in touch. It's been a real boon to all our lives. I also use the internet for banking, paying bills, and for research on and following my investments.

Having moved across country as an elder to be closer to my adult children, I treasure my internet access to the friends I left behind in the Midwest. Keeping our current connections as they are -- or improving them -- help us maintain "conversations." Waiting a day or two for a response would be like waiting for my next heartbeat!

If anything, I wish my connection were FASTER! Restricting (slowing) my access because I'm not a big telecom, a broadband provider, or Fortune 500 company would truly impact my life in a negative way. Limiting access to "power brokers" would decrease democracy, damage the ability for ordinary citizens to connect with one another, and imperil the future of communications in ways no one yet can predict.

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.

Please listen to me and to the hundreds of thousands of other internet users who rely on equal access for all. I thank you in advance for your time and compassion.

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