

Net Neutrality is Necessary for the Common Man

I want to see Net Neutrality become the law of the land. It is part and parcel to our founding principles that each citizen have the opportunities to succeed in their business efforts and in free speech and in self expression.

The internet is now a big part of the way that each of these things takes place in our country. Small businesses utilize the web to compete in the marketplace, home-based entrepreneurs are able to raise children and provide income for their family at the same time, families are able to keep in touch cross country, community takes place online in ever increasing ways, bloggers are now a significant addition to the free movement of information, news, and opinion. And the list can go on and on. The internet is now a major part of our culture and a resource for our citizens. Changing this, in any significant way like handing over control of the flow of the internet to a few large corporations, would be detrimental to the common man, the small business owner, and future generations. It would also limit the flow of news and information in the form 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.