

Keep the Internet free for the sake of democracy

The government must protect our airwaves from the same corporate gatekeepers that have stifled innovation and competition in Internet markets.

To restore America's leadership in high speed Internet services, the FCC must ensure that the upcoming auction sets aside at least 30 MHz of spectrum for open and non-discriminatory Internet access. This will guarantee that new entrants have the opportunity to enter the market in competition with incumbent providers.

It would be a big mistake to hand over these airwaves to the very same phone and cable companies that dominate the wireline market. We need more competition and innovation, not more of the same. This new wireless spectrum must be open and neutral so that America can build a better Internet for everyone.

Our democracy is threatened in so many ways. As

Al Gore says in his new book, the internet offers our country a way to recover democratic communication between citizens. Please see that this possibility is not destroyed by turning the internet in its entirety over to the big boys.