

The public airwaves belong to the public

The corporate communications companies have clearly demonstrated that their only interest is in the bottom line; ever greater profits at the expense of the public. A viable communications system, however, is crucial to preserving democracy by allowing free access to current events and information, to educational opportunities for everyone regardless of economic or circumstantial status, to the possibility of economic opportunity for anyone through the Internet. I must strongly remind the FCC that the airwaves belong to the public and the FCC is required to make decisions in the best interests of the public, and absolutely NOT in favor of corporations over the best interests of the public.

It is my understanding that the United States is far behind other countries in development of wireless Internet access for the public. The narrow decisions that the FCC has been making at the behest of corporations and their greedy interests are putting the entire country at risk of becoming a third rate nation. This dangerous and myopic decision-making must stop. Decisions must be made in the best interests of the public which ultimately are in the best interests of the United States.

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.