

Free Internet is crucial to democracy

The Internet is the most important improvement in democracy in decades. The Internet facilitates an informed citizenry, and is a tremendously important forum where every voice can find its audience.

The broadband providers have built a profitable business providing services with the Internet the way it is. The providers have no right to force additional fees for prioritized service. This is a power grab that the FCC needs to hold back so that democracy can flourish with the Internet as a stronger foundation that is critical in our modern times with so many stresses cutting away at freedom.

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.