

As a proud American citizen, I try to promote my country as often and as loudly as possible. Coming from a (wonderful) Korean mother, I spend a great deal of time conversing and interacting (usually online) with other Korean-Americans, as well as friends and relatives in Asia.

Being young (21) and technologically inclined, much of our time is spent discussing emerging technologies from our respective countries/regions. As you may know, South Korea has the highest percentage of citizens with high-speed/broadband Internet access. Nearly 70% of their population has broadband Internet access in their homes, with an average speed of 45 Mbps. In the US, the average broadband speed is just under 2 Mbps. That is not a typo. Our average household broadband speed is just 2 Mbps, over 20 times slower than the average in South Korea. In addition, the US is now ranked 16th in the world in high-speed/broadband Internet service penetration. Hardly any of our rural communities even have the option to advance and enrich their lives through high-speed connectivity, mainly due to the severe lack of infrastructure investment by the telecommunications companies that have attempted to throttle the Internet in America for so long.

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.