

A free and open internet drives development

First, having recently earned my Master in International Affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), I know first hand the necessity for access to the up-to-date information provided by the internet. Most of my classes required comprehensive research of contemporary issues and public internet sites provided over 50% of that research. I also recognize that the other 50% of research that I accessed through the Columbia libraries system is not available to the majority of Americans. By limiting access to the internet we would be giving yet more privilege to the privileged, and increasing the technological gap between the wealthy and the poor.

Second, as an experienced public school teacher I am strongly committed to an excellent education for all of America's youth, and open access to the internet is an important component to education in the 21st century. Technological savvy is what is going to determine whether American students maintain a competitive edge in an information filled, globalized society. Knowledge is power and a free internet facilitates and educated citizenry, which is the basis for a successful democracy.

Finally, media freedom is at the very core of American values and maintaining a free and open internet sends a message to the world that American's are committed to freedom of information and democracy.

Please protect net neutrality. The success of our children, and therefore our future, relies on it.

Respectfully,

Basho Mosko
Master of International Affairs '07
Columbia University