

Internet: the 21st century tool for global connect

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.

In an era when big money and big corporations seem to be in control of so much on a global, meta-national basis, the rights of the individual throughout the world to be in communication with each other need to be preserved more than ever. Please do whatever is necessary to protect the interests of individuals from the overriding power of giant corporations. More than ever, in this era of excessive greed and selfishness, humans need to have easy access to the wisdom and knowledge that has arisen from intelligent people in all areas of the globe.

We are involved in several small businesses that provide our income. We depend on easy access to the internet to communicate with our customers and do the necessary follow-up work. In real estate, for example, easy, speedy access to the information now available on the internet is crucial. Easy, instantaneous access to Website information and email is absolutely crucial in these times when speedy response can make the difference between financial stability and financial catastrophe for a small business.

I encourage any steps that maintain the current level of access that small business enjoy in order to keep constantly improving the opportunities for individual, entrepreneurs of modest means, to survive in the face of competition from so many more financially endowed companies. Please respond to the needs of small businesses, rather than the political clout of financially endowed conglomerates.

Thank you.

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