

## Protect Unimpeded Access to the Internet

As an web developer and entrepreneur, I am concerned that any amazing new idea that I develop (examples YouTube, Google, EBay, and MySpace) will not be able to attract people to it in the begin since I can not afford to purchase \*special\* access from the service providers that sit between my site and any future users that I could attract. Further, even if I COULD pay the price that AT&T wants, then I would have to pay Cox, Time-Warner, and many many others.

Even more importantly, this WILL cause the digital divide between urban, suburban, and rural Americans to be magnified like never before. Much of rural America is currently not served, under serviced, or served by small independent providers. These independent providers will try to extract higher rates for access to their customers and since they have a limited number of customers, most of the sites on the internet sites will not pay the price and this will cut these Americans off.

Finally, I am currently paying AT&T for access to the internet. If they feel that they are not making enough money off me, then they can raise my rates. Of course, I then have the option to dump them and get a different provider. It is a free market, but they should not be able to "TAX" the websites that I use. This "TAX" will cause the websites to start charging fees or increase their fees to recover the money lost.

Only the government has the right to tax, and internet service providers should not be granted this ability by the FCC.

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.