

No Gatekeepers!

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.

They are already affecting how and when I can access some of the Internet already. From broadband I could do many more things. I have had broadband and I can say that I have been able to accomplish so much more than I can with dialup. But Verizon refuses -- for the last 8 years -- to upgrade our little town of Dendron, VA and they CLAIM they are part of the 'thrust' to provide broadband to Rural America?!

All while they keep the old GTE Land (phone lines that used to be owned by GTE) separate from the rest of their Verizon customer base. Why? Maybe it's because they would have to show that they are not doing what they said they would do for rural America? How many more areas like Dendron, VA and that place in the North East where they are trying to sell their phone service and potential broadband service to a tiny company who will never be able to do even what Verizon could do for that community -- and why? All for a tax break or writeoff?! They don't care about the customer. They ONLY care about their bottom line.

No company can ONLY care about their bottom line. They will eventually lose.

So, how can these Telcos be trusted to do what's right as gatekeepers of the Internet? Who will they really serve?

If you were to look at each and every Telco out there in the USA, you would find many instances where they could have done for rural America but did not because it wasn't worth it to THEM.

How well will they do FOR OTHERS when they perceive they won't make the MOST money they could if they become the gatekeepers of the Internet in the USA?

And how long would that go on before the government could actually CORRECT IT? IT TAKES FOREVER to accomplish anything with so much red tape involved. How many will be hurt by this in the meantime? How many people will be trampled?

This fundamental change would end the open Internet as we know it. It would even further 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.

And think about this. Remember the Unions? Think about the things that they did THAT ACTUALLY HURT Citizens in this country ALL WHILE CLAIMING to help THE CITIZENS.

And think even harder about this. Wireless/Cellular phones -- these are owned by the Telcos. Think about the way they treat their customers. And how they treat the service they provide their customers -- which has become MORE OF A UTILITY than a convenience these days.

Think about how they treat small companies who need to lease lines from them and how if it were not for the government intervention, which took time to implement, would still be treating the little guy even worse than they do now.

Now think about all the money that the Googles, Microsofts, and Amazons of the United States and around the world are ALREADY PAYING for access to provide bandwidth and services to their visitors and customers. Should they pay double or more, both coming and going?

And how about the little guy? The little company, the potential future big companies that might just have that next big thing that will make a major difference that the current big guys never thought of -- there will likely be no way they could ever afford to even get into the game.

This country was founded and built upon small, independent, entrepreneurs. What will become of the future businesses for our children and grandchildren, much less the current entrepreneurs?

Please do not allow the Telcos to control anything more than they absolutely have to to provide the service and that alone should be the extent of it! No Telcos should be gatekeepers of the Internet. Please!