

Net Neutrality is Free Speech

If you who sit on the Federal Communications Commission allow Internet providers to interfere with free speech, i.e. to eliminate or modify complete net neutrality, you will endanger our Democracy.

Sounds extreme?

You have already sat idly by while serious television news has all but been destroyed, allowing it to be replaced by the local police blotters and mindless pablum, the likes of which are regularly seen in publications like The Enquirer. To what degree, I must ask, have you considered the effects of this on the functioning of our Democracy?

Your greater concern, it would seem, is to protect us from indecency. While the latter, on the surface, would appear to be a laudable notion, you might reflect on this simple idea: of the two unpleasant polar opposites, viz. completely free speech versus state-controlled or state-censored speech, completely free speech is far safer for both our children and adult citizens.

Now you are entertaining notions that would permit Internet providers to determine which web sites will be more accessible to our citizenry.

I would ask you to consider the negative consequences of this very seriously. Part of the reason that many United States Citizens are against the War in Iraq, as you well know, is that lots of solid information and, yes, not so solid information--an inevitable consequence of free speech--is freely and rapidly available on the Internet.

Oh, did I imply that the War in Iraq is bad? Actually, that's not germane to my argument. My point is that citizens have a real source of information assisting them in their decision making. I am fully aware that FCC Commissioners are appointed by the White House and I'm not unaware of the backgrounds of some of you. There's nothing in a true conservatives' view preventing him or her from supporting free speech and standing up to prevent any attack on free speech.

Do not allow anyone to interfere with affordable, low cost, free AND EQUAL access to the Internet. Failing to stand up now could result in serious and very bad consequences for all citizens.