

## Net Neutrality, the Life Blood of Creative People

My state of Maine is the first state in the nation to vote to preserve net neutrality.

As an artist and an arts administrator, I salute this vote for its courage and its vision.

Maine is a large state in geographic area with a relatively small and dispersed population. For creative people, it is virtually impossible to make a living through traditional marketing outlets, especially in the western part of the state.

More and more, the web is the way our creative economy is reaching audiences outside Maine. Only with net neutrality is it possible to develop the linkage that allows individual creative output to emerge.

For example, Western Maine Cultural Alliance exhibits artists representing 5 counties, with links to their individual sites, on a sampler page: [www.westernmaineculture.org/WMCA\\_Artists.html](http://www.westernmaineculture.org/WMCA_Artists.html)

In turn, WMCA, as a cultural resource, has links on a variety of sites from libraries and academies to chambers and tourism outlets, even a national site for art news.

Minus net neutrality, Big Media will own all access to audiences on behalf of the creative output controlled and produced by giant corporations.

I am extremely proud of Maine's legislature for their leadership on this important issue and I hope it's true that; "As Maine goes, so goes the nation."