

## Save Innovation! Save Democracy!

I am terrified of what would happen to our country if Net Neutrality is not made a continued priority. The U.S. invented the Net and Web, which subsequently fostered innovation and prosperity worldwide. The abolition of Net Neutrality means squandering our innovative edge, ceding it to other countries. Broadband penetration is already more pervasive, broadband speeds already faster in other lands, and it's only a matter of time before the Next Big Things start coming from outside our country.

Too long has public discourse been a one-way street through the medium of television. With the Internet, there is a wonderful chance to revitalize our democracy--but not if corporations control who can say what and to whom.

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.